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16 DAYS left before the start of the new fiscal year

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Government paychecks out today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government employees who did not receive their salaries during Friday's payroll are expected to get paid today, the Fitial administration said yesterday.

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Kilili responds to Fitial's 'dollar' challenge

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan responded yesterday to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's challenge to prove that the CNMI has received "even

See KILILI on Page 4

ADDRESSING SPECIAL NEEDS
Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota), standing right, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) pose with members of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Council in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The council is supporting the passage of a bill establishing a Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority under the Office of the Governor, and another bill prohibiting the use of words or phrases that unintentionally express negative attitudes toward persons with disabilities.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House rejects Senate version of budget

6-member conference committee starts meeting today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives rejected yesterday the Senate's version of the $132 million budget bill, automatically sending both houses into a conference committee that will try to hash out contentious provisions in the measure. These include work hour cuts, lawmakers' discretionary and leadership accounts, additional funding for essential agencies like the Northern Marianas College, and giving more to Rota and Tinian, among other things.

The House rejected House Bill 17-96, House Substitute 2, Senate Substitute 1 on a 10-8 vote.

If no budget is passed before the fiscal year starts on Oct. 1, the government will be forced to shut down.

The House rejection of the latest version of the fiscal year 2011 budget plan comes a day after a House deadlock on the measure, with a 9-9 vote that crossed party lines and with two absences.

Rep. Stanley Torres's (Ind-Saipan) change of heart—from a "no" to "yes" vote—tipped the scale in favor of rejecting the Senate substitute bill.

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) was still

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HOW THEY DIFFER
Some of the contentious provisions of the House and Senate versions of the FY 2011 budget bill

	HOUSE	SENATE
Proposed work hour cuts per pay period	16 hours	8 hours
Each lawmakers' annual discretionary funding	$130,000	$86,000
Leadership account	$76,330	$120,330
Northern Marianas College	$3.915 million	$5,040,873
Public School System	$30,132,022	$30,305,722
Government utilities payments	$9,115,583	$6,574,670
Judiciary	$2,972,847	$3,578,006
Rota	$6.256 million	$7.105 million
Tinian	$6.256 million	$7.105 million
Zoning Office	$110,515	0

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Local

Babauta: Invest more ARRA money on infrastructure projects

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate candidate and former governor Juan N. Babauta would like to see more federal stimulus money being spent on infrastructure like roads and power engines to make the CNMI more attractive to businesses and foreign investors long after the expiration of the grant funding

Babauta said a lot of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding is invested in hiring teachers and administrators, which is a good thing, but the CNMI needs to plan ahead of the expiration of the ARRA funding.

"We want to make sure that those jobs are either continued under local funding and we don't want to be firing people at the end of two years and back to square one when we started," he told Rotary Club members and guests.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate candidate and former governor Juan N. Babauta, right, of the Republican Party, addresses Rotary Club of Saipan members and guests at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan yesterday, while Rotary Club president Glen Perez listens.

Babauta was the guest speaker in yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Garapan.

The Rotary Club of Saipan, led by its current president Glen Perez, invited the four delegate candidates to separately address the membership to talk about their priorities and platforms.

The series began yesterday with Babauta of the Republican Party, to be followed by former lieutenant governor Jesse C. Borja of the Democratic Party, former House floor leader Joseph N. Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party, and incumbent Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, in the next three Tuesdays.

Babauta said if more ARRA money is invested in infrastructure like roads, power and water, the CNMI will become more attractive for businesses and for investors in the years ahead.

Babauta, in responding to a question from Rotarian and Attorney General Edward Buckingham, said it would be better to focus on raising or lifting the cap on Medicaid reimbursement for the CNMI rather than increasing funding for the program.

He said the CNMI and other insular areas currently have a 50-50 Medicaid reimbursement cap. This means 50 percent is paid for by the federal government, and the other 50 percent, by the local government.

While the current cap for the CNMI is close to $5 million, the CNMI spends an average of $13 million to $14 million annually, he said. This means any Medicaid spending over $5 million is

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DEQ-163
SUBMISSION: OCTOBER 19, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.
"ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE PREPARATION OF DESIGN WORK FOR THE LAOLAO BAY DRIVE STREAM CROSSINGS AND BOLLARDS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"
THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER SEPTMBER 15, 2010 AT THE DEQ OFFICE LOCATED IN THE GUALO RAI CENTER BUILDING, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS.
A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5, 2010 AT 9:00A.M. IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM. 205).
THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT'S USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.
/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
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/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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CUC losing a lot of power for unknown reasons—consultant

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The islands' utility agency suffers from high levels of unaccounted for energy losses that greatly exceed acceptable industry standards, according to Georgetown Consulting Group, the consultant of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

A study funded by the Department of the Interior estimates that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s technical losses resulting from its delivery infrastructure was at less than 6 percent.

"This implies that CUC has non-technical losses [metering, meter reading, theft, customer information system, billing and other back-office issues] that account for another 6 to 7 percent. This is a significant finding," according to CUC and Georgetown.

Industry standards for non-technical losses rarely exceed 1 percent.

The Interior-funded study, conducted by Kema Consulting, analyzed CUC's technical line losses associated with its delivery system, including substation equipment, primary conductors and laterals, delivery transformers and devices, secondary conductors, and metering equipment.

This finding is not new. In early 2010, CUC established an ad-hoc task force with the responsibility to identify all back-off activities, including meter reading policies and procedures, customer information system integrity, billing procedures, revenue recovery, and protection procedures.

Georgetown Consulting said the task force should strive to reduce non-technical losses to less than 1 percent.

"A reduction in the non-technical loss component of CUC's unaccounted for energy from its current rate to industry norms would result in annual ratepayer savings of approximately $4 million to $6 million a year," the study said, adding that CUC recognizes that much more work is r equired in this area to bring its non-technical unaccounted for energy losses to acceptable levels.

CUC and Georgetown Consulting recently agreed to endorse an across-the-board power rate hike for the next six months starting in October through March 2011. The commission's decision will be known after the public hearing and deliberation on Friday.

'High level'

According to CUC and Georgetown, several options exist to reduce the levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, and key to this is the relatively high unaccounted for energy losses at CUC.

"Currently, energy losses exceed 12 percent of all energy produced at CUC. This is an excessive amount for a delivery system the size of CUC's," both said.

They said that, in Georgetown's experience, energy losses should be in the range of 6 to 7 percent.

"This means somewhere between 4 to 6 percent of all electricity produced at CUC is not producing revenue or is not being properly accounted for," Georgetown and CUC said, adding that the net impact on electric customers is that they are required to pay a higher LEAC charge than they would otherwise pay—equal to about $5 million at current fuel oil prices.

For CUC to significantly cut its losses and bring them to industry standards, Georgetown said CUC should do what it did with the power plant rehabilitation—bring together and deploy all resources at its disposal to focus on resolving the problem.

DPH still searching for Brostrom's replacement

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Division of Public Health is still searching for Dr. Richard Brostrom's replacement after its erstwhile medical director resigned last month.

According to deputy secretary John Tagabuel, DPH is "passively" accepting and entertaining potential applicants for the position.

Tagabuel said yesterday that Brostrom is still technically onboard and is just using up his vacation time.

Brostrom worked at the hospital for almost a decade and was the attending physician at the chest clinic. He will relocate to Hawaii for another medical job.

For many years now, the hospital never reached a comfortable level in its number of physicians.

Latest records indicate that CHC is short of nine doctors, including Brostrom's position. The hospital is also short of a pharmacist and psychiatrist.

DPH was recently approved a J1 Conrad 30 visa waiver designation, which would allow the hospital to hire foreign doctors who have had residency training in the United States.

The need for more doctors was attributed to the growing number of patients who directly go to the hospital, bypassing preventive and primary care in private clinics.

The hospital has been in state of emergency since last year due to the poor quality of services and lack of manpower.

DPH has an estimated 350 employees. Over a hundred employees will be subjected to work-hour reductions when the new fiscal year kicks in on Oct. 1. The affected employees are mostly administrative staffers who do not deal with patient care directly.

The 16-hour cut will be enforced by shutting down administrative operations during Fridays. The move is expected to result in more backlogs in several areas.

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More than 9,000 to be sworn in as citizens

WASHINGTON, D.C.—More than 9,000 candidates will become new citizens during 63 special ceremonies hosted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in recognition of Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on Sept. 17.

As part of this celebration, USCIS is partnering with the National Park Service to hold naturalization ceremonies at 22 national park sites across the country from Sept. 13 to 24 under the theme, "Embrace Citizenship - Experience America Through Your National Parks."

"Each year we recognize Constitution Day and Citizenship Day to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution and to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of our great nation," said USCIS director Alejandro Mayorkas. "We continue to be enriched by the diversity of our individual backgrounds and we remain united in our respect for the Constitution and the foundational rights and responsibilities it enshrines."

Highlights for this year's celebration include a Sept. 15 ceremony for 25 new citizens at the foot of General Grant's Tree, the largest giant sequoia in the General Grant Grove section of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park in Three Rivers, Calif. This grand park was named in 1867 after Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States.

On Sept. 17, approximately 60 new citizens will be welcomed at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Mo. The park is a memorial to the role the third president of the United States played in opening the West and to the pioneers who helped shape its history.

A cornerstone ceremony will also take place on Sept. 22 at the Lincoln Memorial, the majestic site dedicated in 1922 to the nation's 16th president, a man who truly embodied the ideas of equality and opportunity for all.

"I can't think of places more appropriate to welcome a new generation of American citizens than national parks," said National Park Service director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "These parks, which are owned by all Americans, are not only places of stunning natural beauty and abundant wildlife, but across this country the nearly 400 national parks preserve our nation's fascinating history and protect our rich cultural heritage. ***(USCIS)***

GOVERNMENT

From Page 1

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that "the most updated projection at this time is that we can expect paychecks to be released sometime tomorrow [Wednesday]."

"We should know in the morning exactly when the disbursement of checks will occur," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Some government employees on Capital Hill said they look forward to receiving their wages today.

"If there's further delay, we'll have more problems at home. We won't have food, we won't be able to pay our power and water bills," one of them said.

The scheduled payroll was on Friday, Sept. 10. However, because the central government was not able to collect enough cash to pay its some 4,000 employees, it had to prioritize distribution of paper checks.

This was the second time in CNMI history that government payroll was delayed. The first one was on June 18; most employees received their checks a few days later, on June 21.

Only doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers and other critical agencies got their salaries on time last Friday because the government collected only some $1.5 million.

Northern Marianas College and Public School System employees also got their paper checks on time. NMC and PSS have payroll expense of $1 million per pay period.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said the expected release of paper checks today would depend on whether the government will be able to collect some $1.4 million in fees and taxes.

The Fitial administration has prioritized bond and scholarship payments totaling some $2.9 million, over payroll of non-essential government employees.

Inos said there's no guarantee that the government will be able to release paychecks on time in the following paydays.

From a budget of over $250 million a few years ago, the government now has a projected revenue of $137 million for operations in fiscal year 2010, and further down to $132 million in fiscal year 2011, which starts on Oct. 1.

HOUSE

From Page 1

absent yesterday, along with Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), who is off island.

Only seven of nine Republicans—the minority bloc—voted "no" to rejecting the Senate version of the bill, along with one independent.

The "yes" to rejection came from five Covenant Party members, three independents, and two Republicans.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) didn't change his "yes" vote, and so did Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota) "no" vote.

"Like I said, at first I agreed that the Zoning Office should not be funded anymore so I voted 'no' on rejecting it. I would like to give them maybe six more months to operate, plus I see some discrepancies in the Senate bill. If the Senate version is signed into law, Zoning will be closed in a few weeks," Torres told *Saipan Tribune.*

Torres also said it's not right that Rota and Tinian were given additional $1 million each when other agencies and programs, including the government payment for utilities, were cut.

Zoning board chair Herminia Fusco, who was at the House session yesterday, said whether it was an oversight or intentional to zero out funding for the Zoning Office has yet to be known, but she hopes the conference committee will provide funding to the office.

'Very disappointed'

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said he's "very disappointed" with the House leadership's "reckless handling" of the budget bill, considering that it seeks to increase each lawmaker's annual discretionary funding from $86,796 to $130,000 when government services will be cut and government employees are faced with up to 25-percent salary reduction.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) maintains that the Senate version of the budget bill is the most rational of all versions he has seen.

The Senate proposes only an eight-hour work cut every pay period, while the House and the Fitial administration want a 16-hour cut.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), during the session, had this to say to those named to the conference committee: "Who in his right mind would place self interest and political interest over the threat of government shutdown?"

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), even though he voted to reject the Senate version of the bill, asked the conference committee to do their best to cut government work hours by only eight hours as the Senate proposed, and not 16 hours.

"Please consider. If not 72 work hours every pay period, then at least 70 hours per pay period," he said, citing requests he received from community members.

Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), who was among the three House members appointed to the conference committee, said they will "try our best."

Conference Committee

Acting Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) appointed Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Cabrera, and herself as members of the conference committee.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said yesterday that his appointees are Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

Basa, in an interview, said the conference committee will hold its first meeting this afternoon. In the closed-door meeting, he said members will go over the provisions of the bill that the House and Senate do not agree on.

"I hope we could have at least a draft bill by Friday," he said.

He said the House will see if the Senate will be convinced that the $132 million budget will not be balanced if it were not for a 16-hour cut every pay period.

Manglona, for his part, said the Senate believes that the eight-hour cut, coupled with a revenue-generating bill passed, is reasonable.

"People will lose their homes, people will lose their cars if they can no longer afford to pay them because of a 16-hour pay reduction. And eventually, children and students will be affected too," he said.

He said the House had promised the Senate that it will pass a revenue-generating bill that will accompany the budget measure, but this has yet to happen.

Despite the differences, members look forward to a budget that is acceptable to both houses.

"I am praying and hoping that we will pass a budget. There's got to be a budget or this government will shut down," Basa said.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said he hopes the conference committee will not give lawmakers more than what they currently receive.

"Giving lawmakers $130,000 a year is unreasonable, when we receive only over $86,000 at present and during these times of financial crisis," he said.

BABAUTA

From Page 2

"100 percent subsidized by the CNMI government."

"Increased funding will not do us any good unless we remove the cap or if we increase the cap to 60 or 70 so that will relieve us of some spending for Medicaid beyond the cap," Babauta said.

Other states have Medicaid caps of up to 75-25; the 75 percent is covered by the federal government and 25 percent by the state government.

"Let me clarify some misinformation—with respect to Delegate Kilili. It's good that he's announcing several millions of dollars increase in Medicaid funding. Under the ARRA stimulus package, there's no question that we, along with other territories and states, receive increased funding for Medicaid. What we need to keep an eye on with respect to the CNMI is that we have a cap on reimbursement for Medicaid here, 50-50," he added.

Babauta, who served as the CNMI's resident representative to Washington, D.C. for 12 years before becoming governor, said when elected, he would try to bring together all key CNMI policy makers.

"We're going through some difficult times. Key policymakers in the CNMI are not working together. There is division, there is lack of coordination. We need to work together. As your candidate, if you permit me to serve you in Washington, D.C., I can bring these parties together…" he told Rotary Club members and guests.

He said "if Washington sees that we are divided on issues, they're going to turn the other cheek, they're going to say, 'never mind them until they make up their minds'"

Babauta's priorities—just like the three other candidates—nclude education, economy, tourism, federal relations, Article 12, immigration, job creation and training, environment, alternative energies, transportation, submerged lands and health, among other things.

He also made a pitch about ensuring local control of the tax structure.

KILILI

From Page 1

a dollar to date" because Sablan "simply asked for it" from the federal government.

Sablan, in an open letter, made it clear that the only reason the CNMI got a $1.45 million increase in food stamp funding and $1.35 million in earmarks for deserving projects "is because I asked."

"The reason I asked is because that is what the people of the Northern Mariana Islands elected me to do for them: to work hard, to ask, to make sure that we get fair treatment from the federal government," he said.

Sablan said the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave the CNMI an additional $1.459 million in food stamp funding—the equivalent of a 13.86-percent increase in program funding he had asked for—35 days after he was sworn into office.

Sablan attached a copy of his Feb. 10, 2009, letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, as well as his June 3, 2009, letter to Fitial giving him advance notice that the money was available for spending.

These letters are available at www.kililiforcongress.com.

"The letters are just the tip of the iceberg. But they clearly document what happened and answer the governor's 'even a dollar' challenge. In fact, we received 1,459,000 dollars for our people who need food stamps—because I asked," Sablan said.

Sablan is one of four candidates running for CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

With less than two months to go before the Nov. 2 election, delegate candidates and their supporters have been trading barbs.

Fitial accused Sablan on Monday of grabbing credit for some of the federal dollars now coming the CNMI's way and for his harsh criticism of the administration.

"We have people in the CNMI who work day in and day out to ensure that the CNMI receives the assistance we need. …We don't just get additional money because [Sablan's] office writes a letter to a presidential appointee. Things are just not that simplistic and I challenge him to prove that the CNMI has received even a dollar to date because he simply asked for it," Fitial said.

Sablan, in response, listed all the federal dollars that he said the CNMI received because of his requests, specifically $1.35 million in earmarks. He said the information is also available on his official website, www.sablan.house.gov.

"I am required by the rules of the House Appropriations Committee to list on my site every dollar I ask to be appropriated for special projects in the Northern Marianas. The governor or anyone can see the $1.35 million I asked for, and the Northern Marianas received, in fiscal year 2010," he said.

These include $250,000 to the Public School System for Refaluwasch and Chamorro language programs, $200,000 to Northern Marianas Trade Institute for instructional materials and salaries, and $180,000 to Micronesian Legal Services for Rota and Tinian outreach, low-income visa applicants, and computer upgrades.

The official term for the earmarks is "congressionally directed appropriations," because members of Congress direct that the money go to specific projects back home.

For fiscal year 2011, Sablan requested funding for other projects.

Among the House Appropriations Subcommittee's approved project funding include $400,000 to the CNMI Judiciary for security personnel salaries and for videoconferencing equipment on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan; $500,000 to Rota for the Rota Gymnasium repair and rehabilitation; and $500,000 to PSS to expand kindergarten, upgrade computer networks, and support the Chamorro and Refaluwasch language programs.

"Final approval of these earmarks may not occur until early next year. But I hope to be in Congress to see them through, so we do not have to start all over on funding the projects," Sablan said.

Govendo accuses Chief Justice Demapan of bias, prejudice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has accused Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan of being biased and prejudiced against him. Demapan countered that Govendo is raising worrisome and patently false allegations against him and his family.

In a motion filed on Aug. 26, Govendo wants Demapan disqualified from presiding over his disciplinary proceedings. Demapan recused himself from the case five days later.

Govendo said he reluctantly made the request to have Demapan disqualified because he believes the chief justice cannot act without bias and prejudice toward him.

"The Demapan family is very tight knit, close family. On information and belief, I was informed that when Juan S. Demapan was on trial in federal court, Chief Justice Demapan was present during jury selection, as well as closing arguments," Govendo said.

He said that when Antonio S. Demapan pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor offense before him in 2010, Roman S. Demapan was also present in court.

Juan and Roman Demapan are brothers of Chief Justice Demapan.

Govendo said he also had the CNMI Bar Association investigate Roman Demapan's unauthorized practice of law in the case of the Angel Malite estate.

"It is my belief that Chief Justice Demapan will not be able to separate his dislike for me and the actions I have taken against his brother from his duty to render a dispassionate and fair opinion in this judicial disciplinary matter," Govendo said.

Govendo emphasized that he is not seeking to re-argue the summary disposition motion, but instead believes that in order to receive a fair and impartial panel for sanctioning, the Chief Justice should recuse himself or be disqualified from this matter.

Chief Justice Demapan did so, stating in his order of recusal that he will voluntarily take this step despite his firm belief that his disqualification is not warranted.

"As Chief Justice I am entrusted to not only interpret the law, but also to uphold the ideals and aspirations embodied in the legal process," he said.

Demapan, however, took note of Govendo's statements that he said were particularly "troublesome."

He denied being present during the jury selection and closing arguments in the federal trial of Juan Demapan. "This allegation is patently false. I never attended any portion of Juan Demapan's trial," the Chief Justice said.

He said he finds it particularly worrisome that Govendo would rest his serious allegation on vague and unsubstantiated foundations, such as in the case of his brother, Roman Demapan.

He said Govendo alleges no facts enough to warrant automatic disqualification.

"Instead, he asserts this tenuous link to question my ability to act impartially in the present case," the Chief Justice said.

"I believe any allegations of bias are simply unwarranted. I harbor no bias or ill will toward Judge Govendo, and have no agenda in the present case other than fulfilling my duties as Chief Justice and considering this matter in a fair and impartial manner. I would have recused myself from this case at the outset if I was aware of any conflict," he said.

The Supreme Court had found Govendo's use of "adios muchacho" and two other statements in court to be racially derogatory and a violation of canons and rules for judicial conduct.

Sanctions against Govendo will be determined in a hearing on Oct. 15, 2010.

Govendo also filed a motion that asked the high court to reconsider its decision.

Buckingham says he has not endorsed any delegate bet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham apologized yesterday to delegate candidate and former governor Juan N. Babauta for any confusion about his involvement in a recent gathering for another delegate candidate.

Buckingham made the apology and clarification during a Rotary Club of Saipan meeting wherein Babauta was the guest speaker.

The Rotary Club of Saipan invited the four delegate candidates to separately address the membership, starting yesterday with Babauta.

The three other candidates for CNMI nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives will follow during the next three Tuesdays.

"I have a clarification and a Medicaid question. The first is just a matter of clarification. You read the papers, so do I. I would like to make a position real quick. First of all… I am not in a position to endorse any candidate, haven't endorsed any candidate, and to the [confusion created], I would like to extend my apology for the confusion, to you governor," Buckingham told Babauta.

Buckingham, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Saipan, then went on to ask Babauta regarding the Medicaid cap for the CNMI.

The Office of the Public Auditor is currently investigating the substance of the complaints lodged against Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General for hosting a gathering for delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

OPA said the complaints against Buckingham and OAG allege criminal violations of the CNMI Election Reform Act of 2000, and the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act of 1992.

Concerned citizens said Buckingham and the OAG may have violated election and ethics laws for hosting a gathering for Camacho at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai on Aug. 28.

Buckingham has already recused himself from all involvement and oversight of the November 2010 election.

Registration for Saipan Awaodori Team now open

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students who want to join the Saipan Awaodori Team are in luck as the registration for the 2010-2011 season is now open.

Sonia Siwa of Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. told *Saipan Tribune* that application forms are available at the Koblerville Youth Center through its program coordinator, Vernon-Lee Manglona.

For students in Gualo Rai, Tanapag, and Garapan areas, applications are available at the Kinpachi Restaurant across Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Siwa said even existing members still need to register.

According to Siwa, they expect to surpass the number of members from the last season, which was 60.

Siwa said there will be separate classes and practice schedules for old and new members to enable the newbies to train well.

Dance practice will be conducted at the Koblerville Youth Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3pm to 5pm.

Schedules for other class locations will be announced soon.

The Saipan Awaodori Team takes part in various island events, including the Saipan Awaodori Festival and the Liberation Day festivities.

Eight members of the Saipan Awaodori Team participated in the 54th Tokyo Koenji Awaodori Dance Festival held from Aug. 28 to 29.

The participants were chosen by Yukihiro Iwanami of the Tokyo Tensuiren Group when they were on island for the Saipan Awaodori Festival last April. The Tokyo Tensuiren Group is part of the Koenji Awaodori Organization in Japan.

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Coast Guard rescues 3 fishermen stranded on Anatahan

U.S. Coast Guard personnel on Monday rescued three persons who were stranded while fishing in the waters between Anatahan and Mendinilla islands.

The boat's captain, David Kerley, 56, and his crew—Henry Hofschneider, 37, and Nakazato Takehide, 44—were found in good condition.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that USCG Guam Sector chief Lee Putnum told the Department of Public Safety Monday at 7am that their search and rescue helicopter was responding to an activated emergency radio beacon by the island of Mendinilla north of Saipan.

Blas said the emergency beacon was from Kerley's 23-foot boat.

The Coast Guard then launched its search and rescue boat, the cutter *Assateague*.

At 2:30pm Monday, Putnum called the DPS Boating Safety to report that their rescue boat was already towing the stranded vessel. Putnum asked DPS to intercept the boat and tow it back to Saipan.

Boating Safety officers Michael Camacho, Norbert Pua, and Jim Sablan launched their rescue boat *Zodiac III* from Smiling Cove and headed north to intercept the towed vessel.

The *Zodiac III* met with the *Assateague* at 5:44pm about six miles northwest of Saipan.

Zodiac III arrived at Smiling Cove with the towed boat at 7:08pm.

Kerley told the officers that he and his crew left Smiling Cove Marina Saturday night and headed north to go fishing.

On Sunday at 2pm, the boat started experiencing engine problems between Anatahan and Mendinilla. When they failed to start the engine, they activated their emergency beacon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Empty Vessel seeks donations to help women, children

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group that primarily supports women and children through outside donations is seeking sponsors and donors to help realize a loan program that will benefit disadvantaged women on Saipan.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Empty Vessel founder and director Rose Smith, far right, poses with volunteers Imelda B. Chan, Alana R. Olopai, and Mary S. Mia at their office on Middle Road across Bali Fashion. The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation is a non-profit, faith-based organization committed to helping women and children on Saipan, Kenya, and the Philippines.

"We need support with the loan program for women so that we can help more women and empower them. We believe that if we can support women, women will help themselves and their families," said Rose Smith, founder and director of Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation on Saipan.

Smith said the loan program aims to help low-income women who have the skills to start their own business and generate income for their families.

"Empty Vessel is a support group to women and we are committed to reach out to these women," she added.

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation is a non-profit, faith-based organization committed to helping people, particularly women and children, through their various fundraising activities.

These include hot lunches, garage sales, coin drives, canned good drives, and a booth at the Street Market every Thursdays, which started in February.

Although they conduct fundraising activities, Smith said the group mostly relies on donations, in cash or in kind, from individuals and private businesses.

While the group is faith-based, Smith said they do not discriminate and help people of different religions and races.

Since the local chapter was founded in 2006, Empty Vessel has been providing assistance to women and children from Saipan, Kenya, and the Philippines.

Helping children

Smith said Empty Vessel supports low-income children by providing them with school supplies "so we can help them further their education."

According to Smith, it only takes a small amount to help at least one child go to school. "For $30 a month, you can help a child in Kenya or the Philippines [and] provide [for their] education, uniform, books, school supplies."

Smith told *Saipan Tribune* that they currently sponsor 34 children in Kenya who have lost parents to HIV and those who are on the streets because of poverty.

This year, Smith said they started to sponsor six children in the Philippines to allow them to go back to school.

She added that they were able to provide school supplies to more than 500 children on Saipan.

Smith said they have a waiting list of children from Kenya and the Philippines who want to avail of their sponsorship program.

"If we could get more funds, that will help more children," she added.

According to Smith, they also offer assistance to low-income families on island by providing them basic needs such as food and clothing through donations they receive from generous benefactors.

Women empowerment

Aside from the loan program, Smith said they support women through their monthly group meetings wherein they invite guest speakers to help educate, inspire, and empower women.

Smith said the speakers "come and talk to the women about different issues that women go through" like health, immigration, and spirituality.

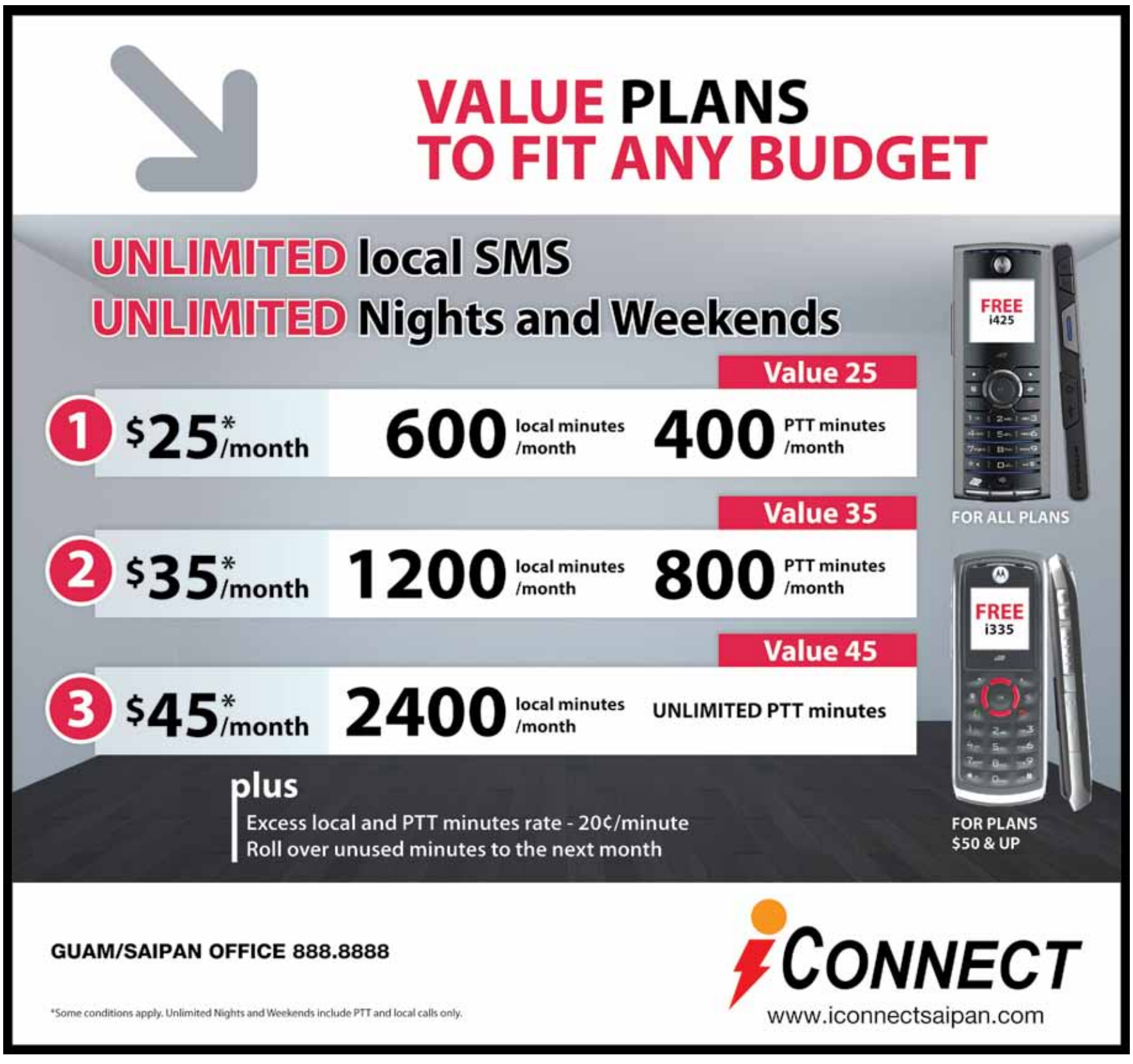
During these meetings, Smith said they also conduct free health screenings through the assistance of Drs. Jean Olivia Grant and Jennifer Linden.

Smith expressed appreciation to all their untiring donors and sponsors who have helped them make a difference in the lives of poor children.

"We believe that by giving them education, we are bettering their future."

Smith urged the community to support those who are in need through their activities. "When we have resources, we can help more women and more children," she said.

For more information, visit the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation local chapter at Room No. 4 on the second floor of the APA Building across Bali Fashion on Middle Road or call 235-2340.



DPS storage room burglarized, seized marijuana stolen

A storage room of the Department of Public Safety was burglarized and according to sources some seized marijuana plants were stolen, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela confirmed the incident and said investigation is ongoing and that they have at least three suspects.

DPS spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas said in an interview yesterday that the burglary was discovered in the morning of Aug. 9 when a police officer reported for work.

Blas confirmed that there was burglary, but that he could not comment about what items were stolen as investigation is ongoing.

"It's an active case. I can't say any further," Blas said.

The burglary happened at the storage room, which is in the back of DPS' evidence room. A person needs a key to enter the storage area as it is fenced off and padlocked.

It is not clear how the suspects managed to get inside the storage area. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

No long lines at Labor for alien registration

Kaipat: Alien workers registering steadily

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Alien workers are registering steadily at the Department of Labor, according to Labor deputy secretary Jacinta Kaipat yesterday.

"I expect that we will have nearly everyone registered by the deadline, which is some time off," said Kaipat in response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry regarding Labor's mandatory alien registration.

Labor started conducting the alien registration on Sept. 7. Their target deadline is Nov. 30, 2010.

When asked why there are no long lines of alien workers seen at Labor since the registration kicked off, Kaipat said they have already registered many by folding it in with other transactions.

"We continue to do that, so there are not necessarily any lines for registration on any particular day," Kaipat said.

She said they will also do the same registration for Rota and Tinian.

"We will work with our staff in the Rota and Tinian Labor offices to ensure that registrations go as smoothly as possible," the deputy secretary said.

Kaipat advised workers and employers, including tourists, to comply with the law.

"Annual registration is mandatory under Public Law 17-1, and the Department of Labor is required to register everyone who has been present in the CNMI 90 days or longer regardless of status," she said.

According to Labor, aliens who already have ID cards issued by the CNMI after Jan. 1, 2010, are already deemed registered and need not do anything until next year.

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal had stated that Labor's enforcement of the mandatory alien registration should be challenged, possibly through civil disobedience.

Doromal pointed out that P.L. 17-1 states that any alien who fails to register or carry the alien registration with them could face a fine, jail time, or both.

She alleged that P.L. 17-1 is similar to Arizona's "racist and unconstitutional provisions" in the immigration law that District Court Judge Susan Bolton had questioned.

'Suspension of zoning law detrimental to Saipan'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local House bill that seeks to suspend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 would be "a serious detriment" to the island, according to Zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt.

Introduced by Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind-Saipan) in January, House Local Bill 17-1 aims to suspend the zoning law for six months "to allow the Zoning Office to address the unintended consequences of the implementation of the Zoning Act by proposing revisions and amendments to the Legislature for further review and possible enactment into law."

The bill states that, although the zoning law was developed through public consultations, "local businesses and zoning clients are presently encountering issues relating to implementation of the zoning regulations that appear to be unintended."

In a letter to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), Wyatt said the bill "seeks to advance the economic interest of a handful of private individuals."

Wyatt said will always be people who will be dissatisfied with the rules and regulations "that we must enforce in order to advance the good of Saipan as a whole."

Even as the island needs to stimulate its waning economy, Wyatt said this economic growth "should not be at the expense of the residents of Saipan and the majority of businesses that profit from sound zoning practices."

According to Wyatt, the law ensures grouping together compatible land uses while separating the incompatible uses to provide stability and reassurance, especially for tourist-oriented businesses.

He said it is designed to provide regulatory control for adequate light, air, and fire separation between buildings in all zoning districts.

"We are dedicated to ensuring that development on Saipan continually evolves into a better quality of development," said Wyatt, adding that the law will protect local businesses and the island's economy during economic recession.

Wyatt said the board members and office staff are already working on text amendments for the zoning law. Public hearings should begin mid-September, he said.

In separate letters to Tebuteb, the Saipan Mayor's office and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce also opposed HLB 17-1.

Mayor Donald Flores said the zoning law should remain "intact and enforceable" while the board reviews inconsistencies in the law.

"Suspension of the law would expose Saipan to a potential repeat of the various negative reasons why the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 was enacted in the first place, which was to control and regulate land use plan and development," he said.

In its letter, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce said the suspension of the zoning law while working on its amendments is "both unnecessary and poor public policy."

The Chamber believes that the suspension would only cause more harm to the business community and the whole island.

The largest business organization in the CNMI does not believe zoning laws are "anti-business."

"In fact, good zoning laws, fairly administered, improve the business environment," it stated.

CIP approves $10.5M projects for CUC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has received $10.5 million in Capital Improvement Projects 702 funds to improve power, water, and wastewater systems on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For Saipan water projects alone, some $2.051 million of the fiscal year 2010 CIP funds was earmarked for the Water Task Force.

The Agingan water catchment rehabilitation also got $2.022 million, according to Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director for operation.

Also approved were $525,070 and $545,000 for the Sadog Tasi rehabilitation, sourced from fiscal years 2009 and 2010 CIP monies.

Improvement work on sewer collection for Saipan got $455,000, while $250,000 was approved for the As Terlaje line replacement.

A total of $380,000 was set aside for CUC water and wastewater personnel, specifically for division engineers and management services. According to CUC, this particular grant was part of the fiscal year 2009 funds.

For Tinian, $1.5 million was allocated for a new water tank and water reservoir. The architectural and engineering design for this project has already been completed.

Rota power projects got $3.5 million, allocated for the following items: Mitsui engine, $500,000; Cummins generator, $640,000; engine parts, $100,000; Cummins power module, $600,000; utility bucket truck, $300,000; and electrical distribution, $1.4 million.

In addition to the $10.5 million, Malae said that local funds and Department of the Interior funds have been made available for water and wastewater projects. These include $1.038 million for a water and wastewater master plan and $150,000 to buy wastewater pumps.

'$9.4M projects funded by ARRA'

Seven ongoing projects totaling $9.4 million were funded under last year's stimulus law, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

For power improvements, CUC was given $448,000 for the initial retrofitting of existing streetlights with LED; and $415,000 to reclaim waste oil by centrifuging two units and to reduce the amount of waste oil to be disposed of at the power plant.

ARRA also provided $539,500 to reduce oil consumption and waste in the power plant as well as $4.7 million to replace the engines' turbochargers.

The Saipan well isolation got $1.8 million, the Sadog Tasi wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation got $1.1 million, and lift station W-8 collection line rerouting was given $350,000.

'Projects funded by CUC'

Four ongoing power and water projects are funded by the agency's operating accounts.

These include repairing the oil incinerator in Lower Base, $13,000; incinerator for Rota, $13,000; spare incinerator, $85,000; wastewater collection repairs in various areas on Saipan, $561,000; and automatic water meter readers, $60,000.

Three other projects funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These are wastewater lift stations, $380,000; well isolation, $500,000; and airport sand filter rebuild, $1.3 million.

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MELL SENTOSA	043E	9/4 Sat	9/2 Thu	9/2 Thu	8/31 Tue	8/28 Sat	9/10 Fri	9/6 Mon	9/5 Sun	8/29 Sun	8/29 Sun	9/6 Mon	9/10 Fri	9/12 Sun	9/14 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	009E	9/11 Sat	9/9 Thu	9/9 Thu	9/7 Tue	9/4 Sat	9/17 Fri	9/13 Mon	9/12 Sun	9/5 Sun	9/5 Sun	9/13 Mon	9/17 Fri	9/19 Sun	9/21 Tue
MELL SILOSO	010E	9/18 Sat	9/16 Thu	9/16 Thu	9/14 Tue	9/11 Sat	9/24 Fri	9/20 Mon	9/19 Sun	9/12 Sun	9/12 Sun	9/20 Mon	9/24 Fri	9/26 Sun	9/28 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
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MELL SPRINGLEAF	010E	10/16 Sat	10/17 Sun	10/17 Sun	10/19 Tue	10/20 Wed	10/22 Fri	10/24 Sun	SKIP	10/29 Fri	10/30 Sat	11/4 Thu	11/23 Tue	11/7 Sun	11/3 Wed
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, ltd., Plaintiff, -v- ASCENSION L. ALEXANDER, Defendant.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0349 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on July 2, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Ascension L. Alexander in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT NO. 002 G 308, (MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS KAGMAN II, HOMESTEAD LOT NO. 002 G 308), containing an area of 1,071 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, and filed with the office of the Commonwealth Recorder on May 14, 1990 as file no. 90-1904.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 20, 2010, at the hour of 3:45 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 30th day of August, 2010:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI Bar Assn #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, ltd., Plaintiff, -v- JOSE R. CAMACHO, MARIA A. CAMACHO, GARIZALDE P. DESAMITO, and LINDA SUSAN C. DESAMITO, Defendant.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0351 **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on July 7, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants Jose R. Camacho and Maria A. Camacho in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 002 G 242, containing an area of 975 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1989, filed at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder on May 14, 1990, as File No. 90-1904.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on September 20, 2010, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 30th day of August, 2010:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

No teachers for detained youths

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Schools started last week but no teacher has been assigned yet to the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility, depriving detained youths from continuing with their education.

The detention facility is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Division of Youth Services. The latter is supposed to collaborate with the Public School System on the instruction of the facility's detainees.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao confirmed yesterday the absence of instructors at the center.

Faisao described the matter as "high priority" and said he had already asked Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and associate commissioner Peter Le'au to appoint a teacher for the detention center.

There has been no response yet from the two officials, said Faisao.

Sablan was off-island yesterday while Le'au was in a meeting when contacted by *Saipan Tribune*.

Faisao said that PSS stopped assigning teachers to the center because of a "lapsed" memorandum of agreement with the department.

However, Faisao pointed out that until a new MOU is signed, the previous agreement is still in effect.

"DCCA hereby request to expeditiously assign and designate a teacher to the facility effective immediately," Faisao told Sablan and Le'au in separate letters. "The department remains confident that the existing MOU remains in effect until ratification of the new agreement."

Faisao said the Office of the Attorney General is now drafting a new MOU.

He said it is the department's priority to ensure that detained youths are not deprived of their right to an education. DCCA had earlier expressed an interest of taking over this responsibility from PSS.

The detention facility has three classrooms that could accommodate nine students each.

Former teacher Joe Limes was the first teacher to handle the instruction of detained youths at the center. In March this year, retired teacher Ambrose Bennett took over but he has since stepped down from the psot.

In previous years, DCCA had allowed detained youths to receive their educational service in a regular classroom setting by joining students in public schools. This practice has been stopped due to the risk and danger it could bring to students.

Tinian DPS sets checkpoints next week

The Tinian Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint checkpoints next week.

The first checkpoint will be held Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, along Broadway Road by former Tinian Democrat headquarters on the southbound lane, from 11:30am to 12:45pm. The second setup will be held along the westbound lane of Broadway Road by the baseball field in San Jose Village, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

Another checkpoint will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010, along Broadway Road next to the Youth Center on the southbound lane, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

A third checkpoint will be held on Friday, Sept. 24, 2010, along the westbound lane on Broadway Road by the baseball field in San Jose Village, from 11am to 12:15pm, followed by another one along Broadway Road next to the Youth Center on the southbound lane, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

The Traffic Section will also be conducting a courtesy car seat inspection at Long Feng Supermarket on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010, from 9am to 1pm.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting STLE enforcements and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy, happy first birthday to Caleb Matthew Acera-Cabrera, who is celebrating his birthday today, Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2010! Love always, coming from your super uncle *nino* Charisma in Islan Guahan!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Carol Fleming! "You are always thought of in a very special way, And you're wished the finest things in life today and every day!" Much love coming from your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Violeta Dangca! Belated happy birthday, lola! We pray that you'll have more birthdays to come. We love you so much. Greetings come from Royce, Rane, and Roxanne.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 15, 1999

Sablan signs new law to benefit former landowners

A new law signed by acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan will allow former land owners displaced after the U.S. military or the old Trust Territory government seized their properties to reclaim them based only on eligibility. Public Law 11-96 will also provide a legal basis for the Division of Public Lands as well as the Board of Public Lands to deal with long-standing problems stemming from land taking that occurred more than 20 years ago prior to the island becoming a U.S. commonwealth. Both agencies are "very much in support of this bill so that pending applications can be processed and acted on by DPL and BPL," Sablan said in signing Senate Bill 11-135 into law.

NMC reorganization continues

As part of its continuing reorganization efforts, the Northern Marianas College has began conducting a comprehensive audit of all positions in the organization, a top college official said yesterday. Ramon G. Villagomez, chairman of NMC's Board of Regents, said the audit will determine the purpose and function of each position and whether that position is needed. "We want to know what are the qualifications of people who should occupy those positions and whether the people who are there already are qualified," Villagomez said.

Sept. 15, 2000

Torres says oil price hike too much

Reacting to the latest gasoline price hike, Rep. Stanley T. Torres expressed both disgust and surprise. "A gallon of gas now costs almost the same as Chicken McNuggets," he said in a statement. Mr. Torres accused Mobil Oil misrepresenting itself when it said it needs to raise prices to reflect oil price increases worldwide. "Mobil still gives away free food and drinks. How can they do that," he asked. "Because they can afford to, that's why. If Mobil were serious about keeping prices down, they would stop spending so much money on expensive promotions and pass those savings on to the pump," added the Saipan lawmaker. Noting consumers have little choice on where to buy gas, Mr. Torres said there is no justification for Mobil to use giveaways as a way a stay competitive with Shell.

Senate to decide on telecom bill next week

The Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is expected to decide by next week whether to pass or shelve legislation regulating the local telecom sector, according to its chair. HB 12-6, otherwise known as the Commonwealth Telecommunications Act, has cleared the lower house following a four-month review by its PUTC committee chaired by Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho. His counterpart, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, however, said the panel is leaning toward a measure introduced in the upper house which will create an independent regulatory body to oversee operations of all utility service providers in the CNMI, including telephone companies.

Sept. 15, 2002

Senate OKs amendments to Compensation Adjustment Act

The Senate endorsed this week a measure that, if passed into law, would allow medical doctors appointed as Department of Public Health heads to receive salaries as medical doctors in lieu of the compensation accorded to DPH secretaries and resident heads. The intent of Senate Bill 13-101 was to amend exemptions to the Compensation Adjustment Act so that medical doctors serving top positions in the health department can choose to get salaries they used to receive as physicians. The proposed measure, authored by Rota Sen. Ricardo Atalig, however, indicated that this option is only open to medical doctors already employed as physicians by the Commonwealth government at the time of their appointment or confirmation.

DOLI conducts personnel training on Rota

The Department of Labor and Immigration will hold a three-day personnel training on Rota to ensure uniformity and consistency in policy implementation. In particular, the training will focus on processing procedures in accepting and receiving applications. DOLI said it wants to effectuate a similar and uniform practice in the processing section of DOLI offices. The move is part of the overarching goal to upgrade processing personnel's knowledge on current applicable laws and become more competent in their work. Under the program, processing personnel will be given a pre-test at the start of the session to determine the level of their knowledge.

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- ☑ Gold Link Bracelets ..... up to $2,500
- ☑ Gold Broken Chains ..... up to $1,000
- ☑ Gold Service Awards ..... up to $500
- ☑ Gold Broken Bracelets .. up to $1,500
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Our Northern Islands

Angelo Villagomez and Dennis Chan did us all a favor in collaborating to chronicle *The first expedition to the Northern Mariana Trench National Monument* we featured yesterday. Our interest is, however, broader than the book.

Dennis confessed that he had been trying to get away from home and as he stretched his arm to embrace the wide open expanse of the Northern Islands, thinking that he has finally made it, dawned the liberating yet awesome realization that he had not left home at all. He was still home! The Marianas Islands is home!

Of course, we want Dennis to grow existentially experiencing and claiming the edges of Gaia's stratosphere as home, but that is my bias, not Dennis universe's operating system.

The news of a huge iceberg splitting in two in Greenland as a result of the now undeniable reality of global warming has driven human consciousness to consider alternative living styles other than the fossil fuel-based existence we have all participated in and continue to fight wars over.

The reality of global warming is no longer a question of whether or not, but how manageable the consequences are, how soon before it impacts critical mass, and how long before Mother Nature's regenerative processes take the upswing again. This is another up-against-ness we have to live with rather than continue denying and pretending that it does not affect us in this west Pacific paradise.

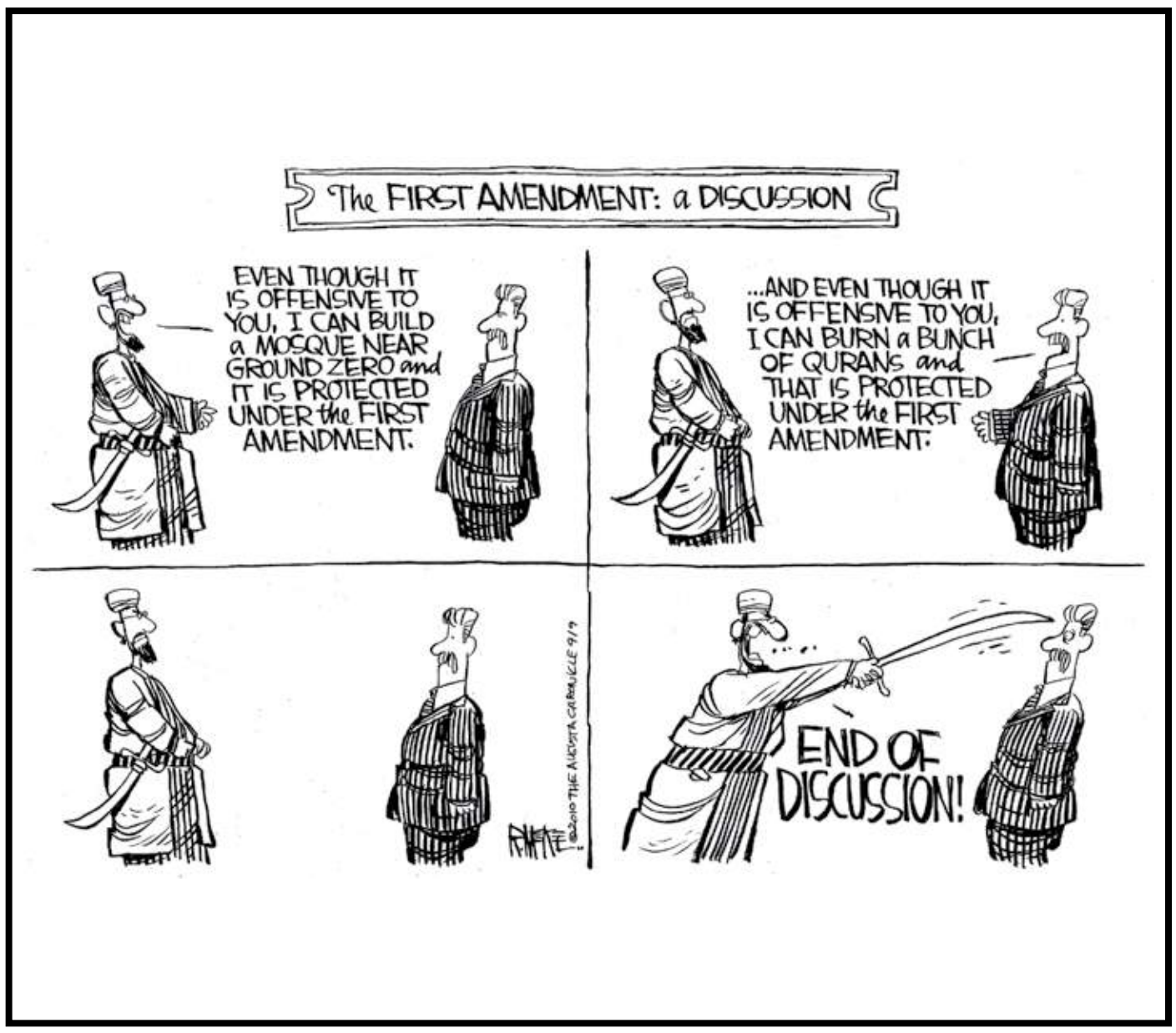
Intentional communities in these times of transition are sprouting all over where bike paths and hiking are emerging as transport norms, land use and sustainable economies the driving force to real estate stewardship, self-reliant diverse people making decisions in a participatory democratic fashion, and self-confidence in the adequacy of all inventions of humanness (culture) made available and practiced by anyone who so chooses. A glocal way of operating is emerging as the inevitable call of the times. The heartaches on the recent 9/11 anniversary over the religious coloration in and around ground zero in Manhattan only reveals our inability to see beyond the myopia of our revered but parochial contexts.

Pagan and Anatahan, Sarigan and Agrihan, visited in the days of old by *Refalawasch* wayfarers, recently settled and abandoned within the last century, is a natural capital yet to inventoried. Might they now offer us the opportunity, not a return to nature as escape from the complex rigors of the modern world, but be an arena of building communities intentionally? What geothermal power can be harnessed from the terrain? Within the experimental centrums of Australia, HK, Taiwan, China, Korea and Japan, and the accessible experimentations of the Scandinavian countries, what have we learned about windmills, ocean currents, variance in water temperature, and photovoltaic cells that may assist in designing green islands for the future?

Tinian is a dormant military island, and Rota has now opened the savannah gates to commercial casino gambling so the bastion of Chamorro elegant simplicity has gone the adulterated Guahan way. Both islands are tied to Uncle Sam's apron, and along with Saipan, they connect to the cranes of the San Diego naval wharf and the food terminals of Oakland's piers for survival.

The Northern Islands are a different story, a resource awaiting

See OUR on Page 13


The FIRST AMENDMENT: a DISCUSSION
EVEN THOUGH IT IS OFFENSIVE TO YOU, I CAN BUILD a MOSQUE NEAR GROUND ZERO and IT IS PROTECTED UNDER the FIRST AMENDMENT.
...AND EVEN THOUGH IT IS OFFENSIVE TO YOU, I CAN BURN a BUNCH OF QURANS and THAT IS PROTECTED UNDER the FIRST AMENDMENT.
END OF DISCUSSION!
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At debt cliff's edge

In these particularly troubled times, uncertainty becomes the key word that spreads instantly into most conversations throughout the islands. We talk it, walk it, dream it, and have nightmares about it. We see our fears confirmed in banner headlines in the local papers the next day.

I could hear stubborn sighs of "Hafa Mas" or "No Mas" from every corner of this archipelago. It's one tough and rough sailing in the usually calm seas of paradise.

In brief, our government is broke! There are no new revenues. Regressive policies have just about done the finishing job in our march toward Debt Cliff. Fancy footing with bland mantras of austerity and reduction-in-force stuck in the filthy dirt of political gridlock is but delusional. It forces our singing White Christmas in what must have been a godforsaken summer.

Like other issues we've missed for 32 years, we seem dazed, incapable of making sense of the urgency to recoup the loss of some $900 million that was flung from the floodgates since the mid-'90s. We braved it, basking in the empty rhetoric that the economy is "pretty darn good." It isn't. Neither would we see "better times." If you will, recovery isn't happening and not for the next three decades. So brace for the wrath of leadership vacuum!

Where do we go from here?

We can do the following: Step up to the plate and make constructive amends to derail the fatal path of insolvency. Fix remnants of regressive policies that have hindered progressive strides on fresh investments. We can use the luminous voice of reason exchanging frank, though educated views, going about our task responsibly.

No more mañana in the grand evasiveness with which we've treated this issue. It is time to own up to our responsibilities by addressing, with conviction to resolve, revenue shortage. Either that or face the largest sinkhole of bankruptcy in NMI history.

Meanwhile, prevailing conditions have forced a good number of our very own to withdraw retirement fund contributions to relocate elsewhere where opportunities abound. It includes families from all three islands in the CNMI. We've failed to provide opportunities. Their only option is relocation.

While families and businesses can only spend what they make, government spends what it takes or rakes in. Furthermore, it's questionable if scarce funds could be spent with a sense of frugality by a government that has the insatiable appetite to spend beyond its means. No wonder the lack of modicum on fiscal integrity.

The task before us requires the participation of a cross section of the Northern Marianas community. No longer could we afford the

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

energetic repulsion of Them Against Us. It's everybody's from Jack, Kim, Watanabe, Li, Ski, Tomas and Maria. It's time to unite and work together. "The tide waits for no man."

■ ■ ■ ■

'Time, where did you go?'

It was breezy at dusk as trees along the shore turn into tall black silhouettes against the colorful glow of the setting sun. I sat atop a carpet of pine leaves unloading the day's stressful activities. I was tempted to gulp more than my share of beer, but I was wary of the congested traffic along Beach Road. So I settled for two glasses taking the role of a marshland reed scientist.

As I sat watching the red glow disappear in the darkening skies of paradise, the ballad *Time* kept coming in and out of my mind with a line that quizzes: "Time, oh good, good time, where did you?" I was ready to dismiss it. But hell, I am right here in paradise, however the insanity that we've honed for over three decades. Never mind the myriad of problems that were born from local conundrum and mañana. Scapegoats would pop up soon to blame for all our inadequacies. Only this time the beastly sacrificial show goat is US!

The folk ballad is sentimental in lyrics and melody. It fits the ambiance of a beautiful sunset that fits queries of what went wrong in paradise over the years. The lyrics end with, "At sunrise I laugh, sunset I cry, at midnight I'm in between and wondering why." This speaks volumes how many working couples have had to settle down with siblings at the dinner table to review substantial cuts in salaries.

It's the bad times, all right.

Good times? Not so bright!

Hardest hit are those who aren't beneficiaries of entitlement programs, i.e., food stamps, housing vouchers, Medicaid or Medicare. It involves difficult budgeting down to pennies, nickels and dimes. It makes real estate obligation and other larger familial obligations a hurdle of a lifetime. You sit and ponder where did the good times go exasperated that at "midnight I'm in between and wondering why."

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Priority dates, avoiding consular processing, and new poverty guidelines

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

This week we will discuss the latest Visa Bulletin, in more depth than we have before, then take a look changes that allow aliens residing in the CNMI to avoid consular processing in another country and, finally, take a look at the newest Poverty Guidelines published by USCIS.

THE *VISA BULLETIN* BULLETIN

The Department of State's October Visa Bulletin is out, and once again the advance in the processing cutoff date is spectacular for immediate relatives of green card holders—that is, their spouses and unmarried children and stepchildren under 21 years old—and improved to varying degrees for the other "family preference" categories. We've been talking about the Visa Bulletin for a while, and we think it will help to show the actual family-sponsored preference table for October, and explain what it means:

Family	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	15FEB06	15FEB06	15FEB06	15DEC92	01MAR97
2A	01APR10	01APR10	01APR10	01JAN10	01APR10
2B	01APR05	01APR05	01APR05	22JUN92	01SEP02
3rd	01MAY02	01MAY02	01MAY02	22OCT92	01MAR95
4th	01DEC01	01DEC01	01DEC01	08DEC95	01APR91

Priority Dates

First, remember that this is a chart of cutoffs for priority dates, cross-listed by country and by preference category. What is a priority date? Simply the date that a Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) was filed by the U.S. citizen (1st, 3rd and 4th preference categories) or lawful permanent resident (2nd preference category) relative. For each category on the Visa Bulletin chart, the priority date indicates that the government is processing applications filed *before* the date shown.

How do you find your priority date? If you have already filed for a relative, or if you are the beneficiary of an immigrant petition, your priority date should be on all communications from the U.S. government regarding your status. The most common is a Form I-797 (Notice of Action), which is used for a variety of purposes, including the filing receipts. At the top of each I-797 you will see entries for priority date, notice date, and the beneficiary's "A" number, which is the number assigned to each immigration applicant and which stays with the applicant until he or she becomes a U.S. citizen.

Preference Categories

The first family preference category is for the unmarried sons and daughters, age 21 and older, of U.S. citizens. The third preference category is for citizens' married sons and daughters, and the fourth is for the brothers and sisters of adult citizens. These are all useful to us in our immigration work—we have a number of clients who are in one or another of these three categories, whose priority dates have passed, or will soon—but the real news, and our focus in this column, is the second preference category.

The second preference category is for close family members of U.S. permanent residents. Category 2A is for spouses of lawful permanent residents, and their unmarried children (including stepchildren) under age 21. Category 2B is for the unmarried sons and daughters, age 21 and older, of permanent residents.

Category 2A is the place to be right now. If you are in category 2A and you are a citizen of any country other than Mexico, immigrant visas—green cards—are available for processing *now* if your priority date is earlier than January 1, 2010, the September Visa Bulletin cutoff date. And in a few weeks, the cutoff date will be April 1, 2010.

No April fooling here. Only a few months ago the wait for processing these applications was several years. The waiting times for all family preferences have been improving steadily, but none so dramatically as category 2A. We do not know whether this is a result of the U.S. government—both Department of State and USCIS aggressively tackling their backlogs, or a drop in applications or some other factor. Whatever it is, we applaud the improvement.

We've tried not to be too technical in discussing the Visa Bulletin. For those of you who want more detail than we have room for in this column, the October Visa Bulletin is available at http://tinyurl.com/34omhkk; it includes the October listings for employment-based categories as well, in considerable detail. Prior Visa Bulletins, back as far as April 2002, are available by following the Visa Bulletin links on the web page cited.

AVOIDING CONSULAR PROCESSING FOR GREEN CARDS

Pre-federalization: USCIS processing for a few, consular processing for the rest

Under a specific provision of the Covenant, CNMI-resident aliens who were immediate relatives of U.S. citizens also living in the CNMI were considered "inside" the U.S. for immigration purposes, and they processed their green card applications entirely through USCIS, with interviews at the Guam Field Office and then, as soon as the Saipan Application Support Center was opened, right on Beach Road. Before Nov. 28, 2009, however, if the U.S. citizen relative lived outside the CNMI, the applications were sent to "consular processing"—that is, applications were processed by the State Department rather than USCIS, and interviews were conducted in the appropriate U.S. consulate abroad, usually the immigration beneficiary's home country.

Post-Federalization: USCIS processing for most

Nov. 28 has come and gone, and we are now "inside" the U.S. for immigration purposes. One happy consequence of this change is that aliens residing in the CNMI can now apply through USCIS for green cards, even if their U.S. citizen sponsors live elsewhere in the U.S. This is not just a major convenience allowing applicants and sponsors to save a lot of air fare. It also has a major effect on which applicants are successful, because of the different focus of Department of State, which we believe is focused first and foremost on security issues and initial admission to the U.S., and USCIS, which is in the business of adjusting status (or not) of people already within the U.S. borders. In our experience, USCIS is primarily concerned with proving the validity of the relationship (whether marriage or other family relationship) on which the application is based, than on issues such as whether the applicant is likely to become a "public charge" (basically, go on welfare) and the applicant's moral background. Department of State

See PRIORITY on Page 13

Out of order

Remember this as you strive for your goals

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

If everything in life
happens according to plan
then nothing can ever really be late

Contemplate this
as you reach for your dreams
and it'll help pass the time
while you wait

For if a leads to b
and then b leads to c
then by design does
your daily life move

It might not seem to fit
any schedule or plan
but there's order
and this I shall prove

Like each note in a song
played too soon and it's wrong
out of time
and the tune goes astray

It's not due to ill will
but a sequence to fill
that's at cause
when things don't go your way

Would a playwright begin
without pencil or pen?
would a bird dare to perch
in mid flight?

It seems the trick then to get
any goal that you set
is know the steps
and then order them right!

COMMENTARY: (this rhymes too)

I ran into a naysayer (a dream stealer) last week, who tried his best to rain on my parade. My feelings were hurt, my resolve called to bear, all from a single biting comment he made.

The sentiment he expressed really threw me for a loop, and I was tempted to respond and cut ties. But I took time to think, and finding no evil intent, I concluded he was simply unwise.

"Who are you to think that all my dreams will fall flat? That was so out of order," I did muse. But if his concept of things were so out of order it seems, then so too would be all of his views.

Anyone who insists that a thing can't be done suffers not just from merely poor sight. But convinced that no path leads to where they would dwell, are then doomed to fail... try as they might.

The naysayers are unwise to the order of things. Be on guard lest you too be mislead. Every point does connect to one point just before, all you need is to know where to tread.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's column is a reminder that you need to be careful about who you share your dreams with. Not everyone has the same vision and optimism about life and what is possible. Even those people who claim to have your best interests at heart may be limiting you based on their own perceived limitations. Sharing your dreams with the "wrong" person can result in you being discouraged by their negativity and pessimism.

Last week, we concluded the seven-step process for creating the life of your dreams. This week's life rhyme is a reminder that all goals are reachable if you tread wisely and in the right sequence!

Remind yourself that every journey from one place to another is simply a sequence of steps. Once you've got your map and route laid out, take the steps in the correct order, and you'll be fine

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Jamaican on Saipan*, may order a copy on jamaicanonsaipan.com.

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

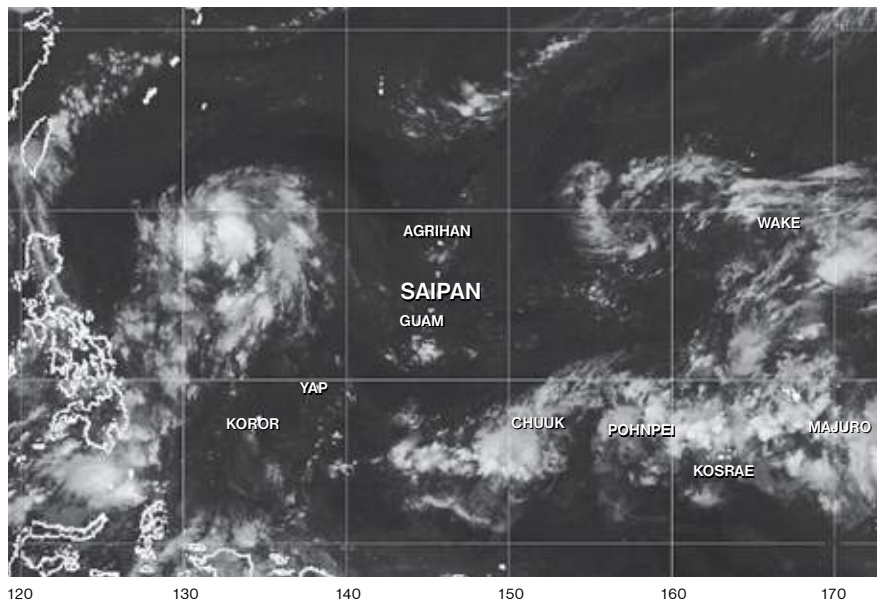
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲77	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼70
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼74
London	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼49
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲76	▼58
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼55
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼69
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼49
Pusan	Windy	▲81	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲83	▼61
Salem	Showers	▲75	▼59
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼67
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲81	▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼65

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough well west of the Marianas extends from 12N130E northeast to 22N135E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the area bounded by 20N130E to 22N137E to 18N138E to 8N130E back to 20N130E. An upper low centered west of Wake Island near 19N157E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 75 miles of a line from 18N158E to 20N155E to 22N155E to 22N162E to 18N171E to 15N165E including Wake Island. A weak surface trough stretches across Micronesia from 5N147E across Chuuk to 9N156E to 8N166E to 8N176E to beyond 180 at 11N. Strong low-level convergence near and south of this trough is generating widespread cloudiness. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Chuuk in the area bounded by 5N143E to 8N151E to 4N152E back to 5N143E and between 4N and 10N from 155E to 178E including Pohnpei, Kwajalein and Majuro.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
2:45 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:17 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:29 PM	11:55 PM
Thursday	1:21 PM	
Friday	2:09 PM	12:49 AM
Saturday	2:52 PM	1:42 AM
Sunday	3:32 PM	2:33 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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OPINION

Clarification

A story that appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* on Sept. 1 under the headline "CPA nixes military use of Rota airport" grossly misrepresented the Federal Aviation Administration's position on a proposed military parachute drop at Rota International Airport. Indeed, the reporter made no attempt to contact the FAA for comment or to obtain accurate information about the agency's position.

The FAA did express concerns about the safety of the proposed parachute drop. However, the FAA at no time threatened to cut federal funding for Commonwealth airports if the Commonwealth Ports Authority allowed the parachute drop to occur. The FAA simply reminded the CPA of its federal obligations, including ensuring that airport operations are conducted safely and that government use of an airport cannot affect any scheduled air carrier operations.

I trust that the next time your paper writes about an issue involving the FAA, your reporter will give us an opportunity to comment.

William C. Withycombe
FAA Regional Administrator
Western-Pacific Region

Editor's Note: The story quoted CPA officials. The reporter did try to obtain comments from Mark McClardy, FAA Division Manager, but he declined to comment.

OUR

From Page 10

intentional designs. I am sure the legal mind of one like Cinta Kaipat would understand that landownership, a relic of the feudal lords carving out their domain from the royal lands in Europe, adopted as a colonial legal form by the nation-states that followed, is foreign to the ways of *metawaal wool*. There is nothing sacrosanct about landownership and though one may trace one's ancestors to the land, this by itself does not grant rights of ownership of the same, save as it is allowed by the consent of the body politic where one belongs.

That is why the threat of the rapid granting of residency and citizenship to alien workers from various origins is overwhelming to the CNMI body politic. Land use alone would upset the breadfruit cart with volcanic tremors beyond the ordinary daily shakings. Yet, the future makeup of the CNMI and the settlement of the Northern Islands are not longer just a matter of speculation but an impinging intrusion into future projections that if they do not yet exist, we are already a generation behind.

Who at PSS need to plan a quarterly expedition to the Northern Islands that would take the Dennis Chans of our schools an experience of a lifetime to find a home beyond their parochial villages? When will MINA (Marianas Islands Nature Alliance) go beyond efforts to *Beautify CNMI* and hunker down to objectifying ecological resources in the CNMI that can be mined in a sustainable manner for the future of humanity? Who will, in the next two years, organize the workshops, seminars, symposia, lecture series, and all forms of engaging communication assaults that will allow us a comprehensive but clear picture of what our operating vision is (not of distant Uncle Sam or the mercenary lords of capital and commerce)?

As Tony Pellegrino keeps harping, there is work to be done. Let's talk. I can be reached at earth2031bound@aol.com.

PRIORITY

From Page 11

is also interested in these issues, but the approval statistics published by consulates are dismal compared to our experience of USCIS processing. In any event, we try to steer out clients clear of consular processing whenever possible.

Switching from State to USCIS

So what happens if you are a green card applicant who lives in the CNMI but had to file through Department of State and consular processing because your immediate relative U.S. citizen didn't live in the CNMI? Or because you were (for example) an adult son or daughter of a U.S. citizen, whether unmarried (family preference category 1) or unmarried (category 3) the Covenant provisions for immediate relatives did not apply to you? Your relative filed the I-130 petition and it was approved, and now that you have gone through years of waiting, your priority date is up, or nearly so.

Do you still have to go to the U.S. consulate at Manila, Guangzhou, Seoul, Bangkok or Tokyo, or even further afield, in places like Kathmandu or Ulaan Bator, just because the law was different when your original application was made? The answer is a clear "no"—you can switch to USCIS.

We have several clients who are switching from consular processing to USCIS. A few weeks ago we had our first approval of a green card for the wife of a U.S. citizen who had been interviewed and approved not once, but twice, at the U.S. consulate at Manila. That consulate issues "temporary" visas, and requires that they be confirmed within a certain time. The consulate staff could not manage to deal with the fact that our client resides in the CNMI, and after both approvals sent her documents to an address from which the approval did not reach her until after it expired.

The consulate's solution? Go back to Manila for a third full immigration interview. The clients agreed with us that enough is enough. We sent a request to send her file back to USCIS and filed the necessary additional forms and supporting documentation, and the application was processed without further incident. (And thanks to the Guam Field Office and the Saipan ASC for their prompt response.)

Not everyone can make the switch, but if it is available we strongly recommend it.

THE 2010 POVERTY GUIDELINES: ANOTHER ONE, JUST LIKE THE OTHER ONE

Every year, USCIS publishes a new Form I-864P, titled Poverty Guidelines and subtitled "Minimum Income Requirement for Use in Completing Form I-864." Form I-864 is the infamous enforceable affidavit of support instituted by Congress in the mid-1990s. We have written in detail about the Poverty Guidelines and the minimum income requirements, in prior columns. Today the news is the fact of the Poverty Guidelines themselves.

Usually the Poverty Guidelines for each year are published sometime between the end of February and mid-April; the 2009 Guideline came out in February 2009. But this year we had nothing new from USCIS until last month, when the 2010 Guidelines came out.

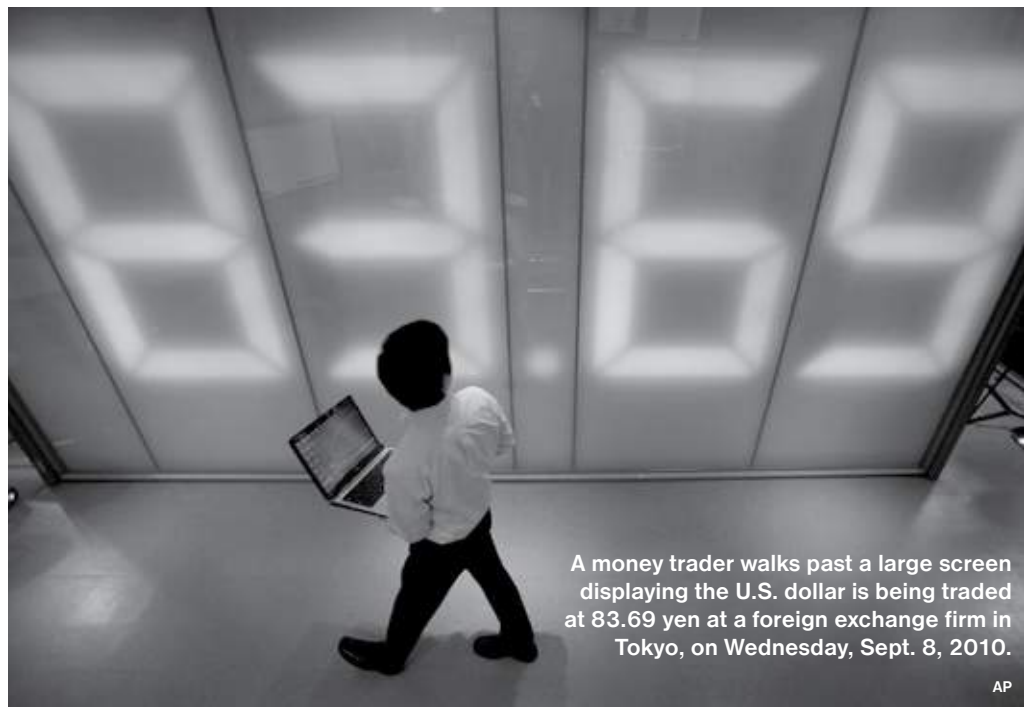
And until this year, the Guidelines have always raised the minimum income requirements; the 2009 Guidelines did so more than most. This is good for welfare applicants, because the Guidelines track U.S. public assistance income levels, and Guideline increases allow more applicants. But it is bad for green card applicants, because every year the bar gets higher. And higher.

But this year, for the first time we can remember, there is no increase in any of the Guideline numbers. A temporary reprieve or a more serious nod to economic reality in the U.S.? We won't know until next year—but for now, status quo is good news for our green card clients.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune *at editor@saipantribune.com.*

Business

Dollar at 15-yr low vs Japanese yen



A money trader walks past a large screen displaying the U.S. dollar is being traded at 83.69 yen at a foreign exchange firm in Tokyo, on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010.
AP

TOKYO (AP)—The U.S. dollar fell to a new 15-year low against the yen in early Tokyo trade Tuesday as investors tried to avoid risky bets, while adding pain for Japanese exporters.

The dollar fell below 83.30 yen at midmorning in Tokyo, breaking the previous low of 83.35 yen it fetched on Sept. 8.

New global banking regulations and signs that growth in China is picking up—assuaging fears of a steep slowdown in the world's No. 2 economy—weighed on the dollar Monday.

"The dollar was sold as investors tried to avoid risk," said Yuji Kameoka, chief currency strategist at Daiwa Institute of Research in Tokyo.

He said market speculation that Prime Minister Naoto Kan would win the ruling party leadership election later Tuesday might also have contributed to the stronger yen.

"Although there are mixed views, Prime Minister Kan is seen as being more reluctant to intervene in the currency market," Kameoka said.

The strong yen hurts Japan's exporters by eroding their foreign-earned income when it is repatriated to Japan.

Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda indicated government intervention may be necessary if the yen rises further.

"We will take a decisive action, including intervention, when needed," Noda said. "We will keep watching the currency market movement with grave concerns and closest attention."

Banks get years to adjust to new global rules

BASEL, Switzerland (AP)—Bankers and analysts said new global rules could mean less money available to lend to businesses and consumers, but praised a decision to leave plenty of time—until 2019—before the financial stability requirements come into full force.

The so-called Basel III rules, which will gradually require banks to hold greater capital buffers to absorb potential losses, are likely to affect the credit industry by imposing stricter discipline on credit cards, mortgages and other loans.

Requiring banks to keep more capital on hand will limit the amount of money they can lend, but it will make them better able to withstand the blow if many of those loans go sour.

European Central Bank Chairman Jean-Claude Trichet said leading central bankers who reached the deal Sunday in Basel were convinced that the new measures were a "fundamental strengthening of global capital standards" which would make a substantial contribution to economic stability and growth.

Trichet declined to estimate how much money banks would need to raise to meet the new requirements, but analysts expect the figure to run into the hundreds of billions dollars (euros).

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hewlett-Packard buying ArcSight for $1.5 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co. wants to have the answer to all of its customers' technology problems. So it is buying network-security provider ArcSight Inc. to help them respond to the growing threat posed by hackers, computer viruses and digital fraud. The $1.5 billion deal announced Monday extends HP's recent spate of acquisitions and could help signal that even after ousting CEO Mark Hurd, it hasn't lost its footing in the effort to win fatter profit margins beyond the personal-computer business. HP continued to brush off concerns that it is paying too much to grow in new areas. The new deal came just weeks after HP won a bidding contest with Dell Inc. over the data-storage company 3Par Inc., agreeing to pay $2.07 billion, or $33 per share.

Stocks climb on bank reform, China growth, deals

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors looking for reassurance about the health of the global economy received just that Monday. Stocks extended their rally into a third week after global regulators agreed to new rules for how much money banks must hold in reserves, China reported its economy remains robust and companies announced a flurry of takeovers. "The package of catalysts is a perfect backdrop for a market trying to confirm global economic growth," said Quincy Krosby, a market strategist at Prudential Financial. Dealmaking and the expansion in China further reduced worries about the economy falling back into recession, Krosby said.

Dollar Thrifty deal could boost rental car prices

DALLAS (AP)—While corporate travelers have been grounded by the slow economy, a lot of vacationers have still been renting cars. That says a lot about why Hertz and Avis are fighting over Dollar Thrifty, a chain known for lower rates that appeal to leisure travelers. Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group Inc. has accepted Hertz's latest bid of about $1.56 billion for the chain. That would top Avis' latest offer of more than $1.3 billion. Whoever wins the fight for Dollar Thrifty, renting a car or SUV on vacation might cost a bit more.

Nation

Aging gas pipe at risk of explosion nationwide

AP

A natural gas line, described by officials as the cause of a large explosion Thursday night, lies broken on a San Bruno, Calif., road on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010.

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP)—An ominous theme has emerged from the wreckage of a deadly pipeline explosion in California: There are thousands of pipes just like it nationwide.

Utilities have been under pressure for years to better inspect and replace aging gas pipes—many of them laid years before the suburbs expanded over them and now at risk of leaking or erupting.

But the effort has fallen short. Critics say the regulatory system is ripe for problems because the government largely leaves it up to the companies to do inspections, and utilities are reluctant to spend the money necessary to properly fix and replace decrepit pipelines.

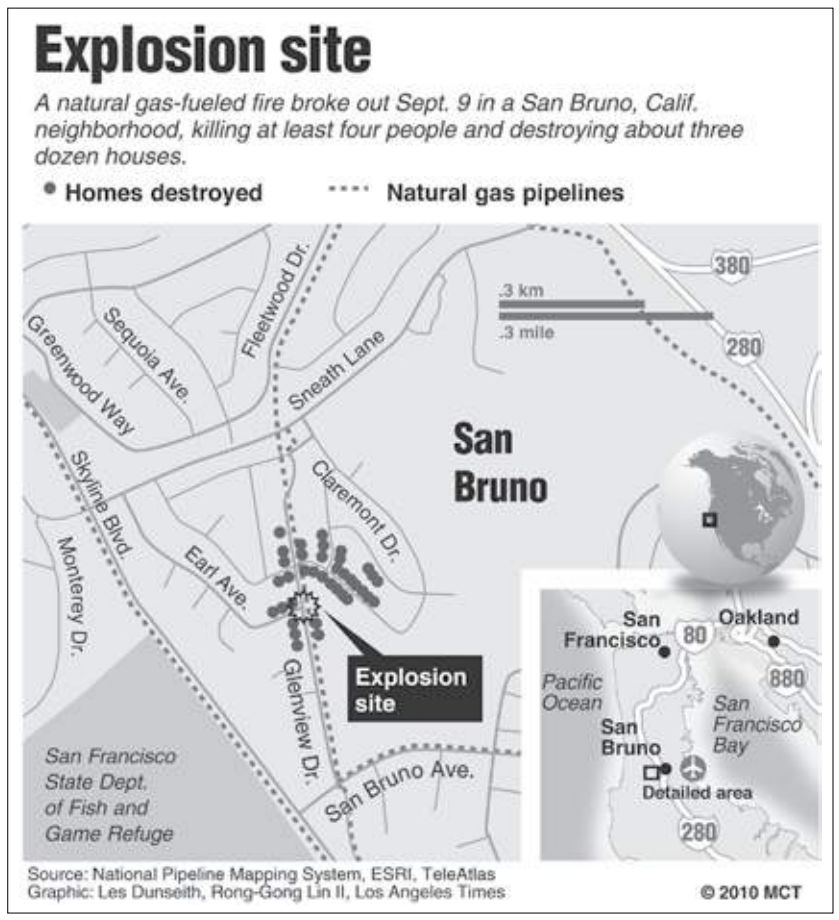
"If this was the FAA and air travel we were talking about, I wouldn't get on a plane," said Rick Kessler, a former congressional staffer specializing in pipeline safety issues who now works for the Pipeline Safety Trust, an advocacy group based in Bellingham, Wash.

Investigators are still trying to figure out how the pipeline in San Bruno ruptured and ignited a gigantic fireball that torched one home after another in the neighborhood, killing at least four people. Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the pipeline's owner, said Monday it has set aside up to $100 million to help residents recover.

Experts say the California disaster epitomizes the risks that communities face with old gas lines. The pipe was more than 50 years old—right around the life expectancy for steel pipes. It was part of a transmission line that in one section had an "unacceptably high" risk of failure. And it was in a densely populated area.

The blast was the latest warning sign in a series of deadly infrastructure failures in recent years, including a bridge collapse in Minneapolis and a steam pipe explosion that tore open a Manhattan street in 2007. The steam pipe that ruptured was more than 80 years old.

The section of pipeline that ruptured was built in 1956, back when the neighborhood contained only a handful of homes. It is a scenario that National Transportation Safety Board vice chairman Christopher Hart has seen play out throughout the nation, as suburbs have expanded.



Senate Republicans say they'll block tax increase

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's plan to raise taxes on wealthier people while preserving cuts for everyone else appears increasingly likely to founder before Election Day.

Senate GOP leaders declared on Monday that Republicans are, to a person, opposed to legislation that would extend only middle-class tax relief—which Obama has repeatedly promised to deliver—if Democrats follow through on plans to let tax rates rise for the wealthiest Americans. The GOP senators forcefully made their case one day after House Republican leader John Boehner suggested he might vote for Obama's plan if that ends up the only option.

Both Republicans and Democrats are using the looming expiration of Bush-era tax cuts as a defining battle in elections to determine control of Congress.

It would take numerous Democratic defectors to pass the Republicans' version—extending all the Bush tax cuts—or the issue could be left for a postelection congressional session if Republicans block the measure with a filibuster. Obama last week declined to say whether he would veto a bill that preserved the tax breaks for the wealthy.

On Sunday, Boehner said he would support renewing tax cuts for the middle class but not the wealthy if that was his only choice. Though Boehner was clear that he supports extending the full range of tax cuts, the White House jumped on his remarks as a possible change of heart.

But Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the GOP whip, said Monday his party won't give ground.

"Just before the recess we had a meeting and we discussed this, and every Republican was absolutely supportive of the idea that there shouldn't be any increases in taxes," Kyl said.

Renewing the tax cuts for everyone would cost the government almost $4 trillion over the next decade, according to congressional analysts, who also assume that Congress won't allow the alternative minimum tax to hit millions of middle class taxpayers with eye-popping tax hikes.

Imam says NYC mosque site is not 'hallowed ground'

NEW YORK (AP)—It is two blocks from ground zero, but the site of a proposed mosque and Islamic center shouldn't be seen as "hallowed ground" in a neighborhood that also contains a strip club and a betting parlor, the cleric leading the effort said Monday.

Making an ardent case for the compatibility of Islam and American values, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf reiterated that he is searching for a solution to the furor the project has created. But he left unanswered exactly what he had in mind.

If anything, Rauf only deepened the questions around the project's future, telling an audience at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank that he was "exploring all options"—but declining to specify them—while also arguing that a high-profile site is necessary to get across his message of moderate Islam.

While opponents of the project see it as insulting the memories of the thousands killed by Muslim extremists in the 2001 terrorist attacks, Rauf said he doesn't see the spot as sacred memorial space.

"It's absolutely disingenuous, as many have said, that that block is hallowed ground," Rauf said, noting the nearby exotic dance and betting businesses. "So let's clarify that misperception."

Some Sept. 11 victims' families and others view the proposed mosque site—in a building damaged by debris from the attacks—as very much part of the terrain of death and sorrow surrounding the trade center.

"I just think he's being very insensitive to say it's not hallowed ground because of who's occupying the buildings," said Jim Riches, a former New York City deputy fire chief whose son, Jimmy, was killed at the trade center. "The strip club didn't murder my son."

The project has become a flashpoint for worldwide debate about Islam's place in America nine years after the Sept. 11 attacks. The controversy has colored the fall campaign season and cast a shadow on this past weekend's commemoration of the attacks, with supporters and opponents of the mosque project holding rallies nearby.

ACROSS THE NATION

New drug-resistant superbugs found in 3 states

BOSTON (AP)—An infectious-disease nightmare is unfolding: Bacteria that have been made resistant to nearly all antibiotics by an alarming new gene have sickened people in three states and are popping up all over the world, health officials reported Monday. The U.S. cases and two others in Canada all involve people who had recently received medical care in India, where the problem is widespread. A British medical journal revealed the risk last month in an article describing dozens of cases in Britain in people who had gone to India for medical procedures. How many deaths the gene may have caused is unknown; there is no central tracking of such cases. So far, the gene has mostly been found in bacteria that cause gut or urinary infections.

Judge hears from alleged 'sham' Green candidates

PHOENIX (AP)—Green Party nominees labeled "sham candidates" said in court Monday that Republicans planted the idea that they run for office, but they said they didn't become candidates to siphon votes from Democrats. Christopher Campbell, Anthony Goshorn and Thomas Meadows testified that they decided to run for office because they wanted their voices heard. The Green and Democratic parties say a majority of the Green Party's nominees were recruited by Republicans hoping they'd attract votes from liberals who might otherwise support the Democratic candidate.

2 homes lost in 2nd human-caused Colorado wildfire

LOVELAND, Colo. (AP)—Firefighters worked Monday to control a 925-acre wildfire that destroyed at least two homes in the northern Colorado foothills as authorities said the blaze and another one that burned at least 166 homes were sparked by household fires. Crews were hopeful they could stop the newest fire near Loveland from damaging more houses. They attacked it quickly with aircraft and hundreds of firefighters brought in to fight the week-old wildfire near Boulder. Containment lines have been built around 20 to 25 percent of the second fire, which broke out Sunday near Loveland.

Asia

Japan leadership battle Tuesday could bring new PM

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister faces off against a powerful political veteran in a ruling party vote Tuesday that could give the country its third premier in a year.

Ichiro Ozawa, an old-school powerbroker who has been in parliament for 40 years, is seeking to oust Prime Minister Naoto Kan as head of the Democratic Party. Because of the party's majority in the lower house of parliament, its leader will almost certainly become prime minister.

■■■■

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Tuesday that China has postponed a senior official's visit to Tokyo in an escalating diplomatic battle over the arrest of a Chinese fishing boat captain after a ship collision near islands claimed by both countries.

The captain was arrested after his ship collided nearly a week ago with two Japanese patrol boats near a set of disputed East China Sea islands, sparking a feud between the world's second and third-largest economies.

The dispute has prompted anti-Japanese activists in China and Taiwan—which also claims the islands—to sail to the area in protest missions, although both governments have sought to rein them in so as not to inflame tensions further.

Li Jianguo, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, was scheduled to visit Japan for a five-day trip starting Wednesday at the invitation of the Japanese lower house of parliament.

■■■■

Media reports say the outcome was too close to predict, with as many as 30 party members still undecided ahead of Tuesday afternoon's vote. The party's 411 members of parliament will cast ballots that will largely decide the race. Rank-and-file party members finished voting Saturday, but their ballots count for only a third of the total.

If Ozawa wins, it would be a stunning comeback for the party kingpin after having resigned as the party's No. 2 in June amid a funding scandal that still hangs over his head. He could be indicted as early as next month over those allegations—although he claims no wrongdoing.

AP

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) heavyweight Ichiro Ozawa pumps his fist at a rally in Tokyo, Japan Tuesday morning, Sept. 14, 2010.

Ozawa has signaled he's staking everything on the vote, saying Tuesday the election "wraps up my political life."

Kan, a plainspoken fiscal disciplinarian who has been in office just three months, is far more popular among the public. Public opinion polls show voters prefer him by a 4-to-1 margin.

But Ozawa has strong support from his parliamentary faction, including many who feel obligated to him for his role in starting their political careers. A master strategist, he's credited with orchestrating the Democrats' historic victory last August that toppled the long-ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party—the party he started out in before breaking away in 1993.

Kan, who also has a loyal core behind him, has faced criticism for the party's loss in July's upper house elections—particularly his ill-timed proposal before the vote to raise Japan's 5 percent sales tax to as high as 10 percent.

The leadership dispute has distracted Japan at a critical time, with the yen's spike to a 15-year high hurting its car and electronics exporters and its economy—recently passed up by China's—stagnating.

Also, Tokyo has gotten embroiled in a diplomatic spat with China after a Chinese fishing trawler last week collided with Japanese patrol boats near some disputed islands off Taiwan. China has harshly criticized Japan for arresting the captain and keeping him in custody, saying the incident could damage ties between the two Asian giants.

While campaigning around the country over the past week, both Kan and Ozawa have stressed the need to revive Japan's economy.

Japan foreign minister apologizes to US POWs

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's foreign minister apologized for the suffering of a group of former World War II prisoners of war visiting from the United States and said they were treated inhumanely.

The six POWs, their relatives and the daughters of two men who died are the first group of U.S. POWs to visit Japan with government sponsorship, though groups from other countries have been invited previously.

"I offer my deep, heartfelt apology for the inhuman treatment you suffered," Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada told the group Monday.

The POW group's leader, 90-year-old Lester Tenney, who survived the Bataan Death March in 1942, said he welcomed the government's apology but still seeks recognition from the private companies that "used and abused" prisoners in their mines and factories, often under brutal conditions.

"At no time have we gotten from these private companies just a letter," Tenney said. "These private companies have kept quiet for 65 years. It is an insult, because by their keeping quiet they are hoping we will die off."

Japan surrendered in 1945 after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japanese leaders have apologized for the country's militarist past many times, but the government contends that all reparations issues were settled by treaties after the war.

Japanese courts have also ruled that reparations issues must be dealt with on a country-to-country basis, but cases challenging that are pending in several courts.

After a short time in Tokyo, each POW will travel to a city of his choice. Some will visit the factories, docks or mines where they worked.

Tenney was involved for decades in trying to arrange the visit and has lobbied for redress from the companies that used POWs after their capture. The companies have had no comment on the visit.

Tenney was taken prisoner in 1942 by the Japanese military and forced along with 78,000 prisoners of war—12,000 Americans and 66,000 Filipinos—to walk from the Bataan peninsula on the Philippine island of Luzon to a prison camp. As many as 11,000 died during what became known as the Bataan Death March.

He was then brought to Japan and forced to work for Mitsui Mining Co.—now Nippon Coke and Engineering Co. The company has ignored his requests to meet, and he said he does not plan to visit the site of his forced labor.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesian Christians beat on their way to prayers

BEKASI, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's president ordered police to arrest the assailants who stabbed a Christian worshipper in the stomach and beat a minister in the head with a wooden plank as they headed to prayers. Neither of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening. Indonesia, a secular country of 237 million people, has more Muslims than any other in the world. Though it has a long history of religious tolerance, a small extremist fringe has become more vocal—and violent—in recent years. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who relies heavily on Islamic parties in parliament, has been widely criticized in the media for failing to crack down on hard-liners.

15 killed in disputed Kashmir in deadly protests

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian forces fought Kashmiri demonstrators in street battles that killed 15 people—including one police officer—in the deadliest day in a summer of violence challenging Indian rule in the disputed territory. Reports of a Quran desecration in the United States intensified the anger, with activists chanting "Down with America" and burning an effigy of President Barack Obama in a rare anti-U.S. protest here. The spasm of violence Monday came even as Indian officials debated whether to make goodwill gestures to try to ease tensions in the war-wracked region, which is divided between India and Pakistan and fully claimed by both.

Suspected US missiles kill 10 in NW Pakistan

MIR ALI, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. missiles hit a house in a Pakistani tribal area early Monday, killing 10 alleged militants in the 10th airstrike in the region this month, intelligence officials said. The two officials said the missiles from an unmanned plane destroyed the home in the northern part of Shawal village, which is dominated by the Haqqani and Hafiz Gul Bahadur networks of militants fighting U.S. troops across the border in Afghanistan. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to talk to the press.

Medical flight leaves Antarctica with sick US man

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A medical flight left Antarctica for New Zealand on Tuesday to evacuate an American worker in serious medical condition, after blizzard conditions eased enough to allow for the landing. The man's identity and condition have not been disclosed. Few winter evacuations of sick workers have been undertaken from Antarctica, but they include a dramatic midwinter flight in 1999, with blazing fuel barrels to light the runway, to pick up a U.S. woman doctor at a South Pole station.

RP says plane baby may be up for adoption

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The baby boy born on a flight from the Middle East to the Philippines and abandoned in an airplane trash bag will be put up for adoption if the mother is not found or declared unfit, a government official said Tuesday.

The baby, named George Francis after Gulf Air's flight code GF, was doing fine, watched closely by nurses and social workers while authorities searched for his mother.

Officials have identified a person who occupied a bloodstained seat on the plane but are still verifying if she is the boy's mother, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman told The Associated Press.

"He is well. He takes a lot of milk, but he is being observed because there was a bump found on his head. But as far as the report from his checkup goes, his condition is good," she said.

The six pound, nine ounce (three kilogram) boy was discovered Sunday when a security officer on the tarmac spied something moving in one of the trash bags that were carried from the plane. He opened it, sifted through the rubbish and found the newborn wrapped with tissue paper and covered in blood.

The story evoked pity and outrage around the world. The infant—still attached to the placenta—was taken to an airport clinic, where doctors and nurses cleaned him, gave him a checkup, wrapped him in cloth and mittens and warmed him under a light bulb, airport doctor Maria Teresa Agores said.

Gulf Air spokeswoman Katherine Kaczynska told the AP that no one on the plane reported anything unusual during the flight. The Bahrain-based airline said the baby was discovered in an airplane toilet trash can, suggesting the mother gave birth in the bathroom during the flight.

Doctors who attended to the baby said he looked Filipino, fueling speculation in the local media that the boy's mother could be a domestic worker in the Middle East. About one in 10 Filipinos works abroad, many as maids and laborers in the Middle East, to escape crushing poverty and unemployment at home.

According to the law, it takes at least three months to declare a baby abandoned and start the adoption process. In this case, even if the mother is identified, she will have to be assessed to see if she is a suitable parent, Soliman said. What she did is "an indication of her inability to take care of the child," she said.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Setback in Chile rescue, but hope comes Tuesday

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—When the drilling stops, the 33 miners who have been trapped underground for weeks in northern Chile notice. And they are not pleased about the progress above. On Monday only one of three drilling efforts was operational—the so-called Plan A drill, reaching down to 750 feet (230 meters). But it too must stop at 820 feet (250 meters), for maintenance work. Plan B, a higher-velocity drill that will carve out a narrower escape tunnel, has been silenced since last week, when it struck an iron support beam for the mine and its drill bit shattered into small pieces. A third drill, Plan C, is still days away from starting its work.

Plea bargain expected in NY student's beating case

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—A plea bargain is expected in the trial of a former Serb college basketball player charged with beating an American student into a coma, a person who has been informed of the deal told The Associated Press. Miladin Kovacevic is accused of inflicting severe bodily harm with possible deadly consequences on Bryan Steinhauer of Brooklyn, N.Y., after a barroom brawl in May 2008 near upstate Binghamton University. Kovacevic's trial was to begin Monday but had been postponed until Tuesday. The person with knowledge of the case said a plea deal would be announced Tuesday and that Kovacevic would face a prison sentence of two years and three months. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the case.

Lawyer: Algeria anti-corruption activist convicted

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)—A lawyer says a prominent Algerian anti-corruption activist has been convicted of forgery, after human rights organizations expressed fears the case was designed to silence him. Djilali Hadjadj's lawyer says he has been handed a six-month suspended sentence and a 50,000 dinar ($664) fine. Hadjadj was accused of using his job as a doctor at the national health insurance organization to sign phony medical certificates for his wife. Lawyer Miloud Brahimi says Hadjadj's wife was handed a 2-month suspended sentence and a 20,000 dinar ($266) fine Monday. The couple will appeal.

Cuba to cut 500,000 gov't workers, reform salaries

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba announced Monday it will cast off at least half a million state workers by early next year and reduce restrictions on private enterprise to help them find new jobs—the most dramatic step yet in President Raul Castro's push to radically remake employment on the communist-run island.

Castro suggested during a nationally televised address on Easter Sunday that as many as 1 million Cuban workers—about one in five—may be redundant. But the government had not previously laid out specific plans to slash its work force, and the speed and scope of the coming cutbacks were astounding.

Cuba's official work force is 5.1 million—meaning nearly 10 percent of all employees could soon be out of a government job.

Workers caught off guard by the announcement said they worried whether the tiny private sector could support so many new jobs, a sentiment echoed by some analysts.

"For me the problem is the salaries, that's the root of it," said Alberto Fuentes, a 47-year-old government worker. "If they fire all of these people, how can they all become self-employed?"

The layoffs will start immediately and continue through April 2011, according to a statement from the nearly 3 million-strong Cuban Workers Confederation, which is affiliated with the Communist Party and the only labor union allowed by the government. Eventually the state will only employ people in "indispensable" areas such as farming, construction, industry, law enforcement and education.

AP

Manuel Cardenas repairs shoes in La Habanera state-run workshop in Havana, Cuba, Monday Sept. 13, 2010.

To soften the blow, the statement—which appeared in state newspapers and was read on television and radio—said the government would increase private-sector job opportunities, including allowing more Cubans to become self-employed. They also will be able to form cooperatives run by employees rather than government administrators, and increasingly lease state land, businesses and infrastructure.

The announcement was short on details of how such a major shift could be achieved, but its intent appeared to deal a body-blow to the decades-old social safety net upon which the island's egalitarian society is built.

Castro has long complained that Cubans expect too much from the government, which pays average monthly salaries of just $20 but also provides free education and health care and heavily subsidizes housing, transportation and basic food. Because unemployment is anathema in a communist society, state businesses have been forced to carry many people who do almost nothing.

"Our state cannot and should not continue supporting businesses, production entities and services with inflated payrolls, and losses that hurt our economy are ultimately counterproductive, creating bad habits and distorting worker conduct," the union said.

Even before the announcement, interviews with scores of workers across several government sectors showed that layoffs were already under way—with many complaining the state was not doing enough to find them new jobs.

Larry Birns, director of the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, said a series of small changes—such as allowing the unrestricted sale of cell phones, privatizing some state-run barbershops, licensing more private taxis and distributing fallow land to private farmers—have moved Cuba toward economic reform since July 2006, when serious intestinal illness nearly killed Fidel Castro and forced him to cede power to Raul.

While none of those were blockbusters, Birns said, Monday's revelation has the potential to be one.

"Cuba is rapidly becoming like any other country," he said. "It is not going back. These are big changes."

Plane carrying 51 crashes in Venezuela; 36 survive

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—A plane carrying 51 people crashed Monday in a steel mill yard in eastern Venezuela, killing 15 people on board, officials said.

Workers at the state-run Sidor steel foundry pulled people from the smoking wreckage of the plane owned by Venezuelan state airline Conviasa, and officials said 36 passengers and crew survived.

Foundry worker Frank Oliveros, 44, said he saw a huge billow of smoke after the crash, then saw the wreckage and joined dozens of fellow employees and firefighters who rushed to the scene.

"I don't remember names ... faces," Oliveros told The Associated Press by telephone. "Our only interest was getting all the people out of there alive."

The partially scorched fuselage of French-built ATR 42 rested among barrels and shipping containers.

Fifteen people were killed after the crash about six miles (10 kilometers) from the eastern city of Puerto Ordaz, Bolivar state Gov. Francisco Rangel Gomez told reporters. Forensic experts have yet to identify six of the bodies, he said.

"A miracle occurred today," said Rangel Gomez, referring to the number of survivors.

The bodies of all the victims have been located, but authorities have not yet identified them all, Rangel Gomez said.

AP

Firefighters extinguish a fire on part of the wreckage of an airplane of the state airline Conviasa after it crashed about 6 miles (10 kilometers) from the eastern city of Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.

It was unclear what caused the crash.

The plane, a twin-engine turboprop, was carrying 47 passengers and four crew members, Rangel Gomez said. Only one of the crew members survived, he said.

He said that Conviasa Flight 2350 had taken off from Margarita Island—a Caribbean island that is one of Venezuela's top tourist destinations—and crashed shortly before reaching its destination, the airport of Puerto Ordaz.

The state airline, Consorcio Venezolano de Industrias Aeronauticas y Servicios Aeros SA, began operations in 2004. It says it serves destinations in Venezuela, the Caribbean, Argentina, Iran and Syria.

In a statement, President Hugo Chavez lamented the crash and sent his condolences to relatives of the victims.

"All Venezuelans are mourning, full of sorrow and tears as a result of this tragedy," Chavez wrote.

Chavez praised rescue teams and Sidor workers for saving injured passengers. The socialist leader said the government is investigating to "clarify the causes of this very lamentable incident."

Clinton says time is ripe for Mideast deal

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Monday that the "time is ripe" for Mideast peace, but that without face-to-face talks Israel can't expect lasting security and the Palestinians can't create an independent state.

Clinton spoke with reporters Monday during a flight from Washington to Egypt for the latest round of the current Mideast peace talks, which began earlier this month. She arrived in Egypt early Tuesday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are expected to meet Tuesday in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh before shifting their talks to Jerusalem on Wednesday. Clinton and former Sen. George Mitchell, President Barack Obama's special envoy to the region, plan to join the talks.

Obama has framed Clinton's task for this week's meetings as an effort to get Israeli and Palestinian leaders to focus on how each can help the other succeed rather than figuring out a way for the other to fail.

But the most immediate obstacle for negotiators is a Palestinian demand that Israel extend a curb on new housing construction in the West Bank, a constraint that Israel says will expire Sept. 26.

Clinton said Monday the Obama administration believes Israel should extend the moratorium, but she also said it would take an effort by both sides to find a way around the problem.

"We recognize that an agreement that could be forged between the Israelis and the Palestinians ... that would enable the negotiations to continue is in the best interests of both sides," she said.

Obama increased the pressure last week, saying Friday that he had urged Netanyahu to extend the partial moratorium as long as talks were making progress.

Obama also said he'd told Abbas that if he showed he's serious about negotiating, it would give political maneuvering room to Netanyahu on the settlement issue. Abbas knows "the window for creating a Palestinian state is closing," Obama said.

On Sunday, Netanyahu seemed to reject a total freeze on construction, saying a Palestinian demand for no construction will not happen. He said Israel will not build thousands of planned homes, but without providing details or a timeline added, "We will not freeze the lives of the residents."

Focus

Future hiring will mainly benefit the high-skilled

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER and MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

AP
A jobs postings board is shown at the Central City Concern employment access center Monday, Sept. 7, 2010, in Portland, Ore.

Whenever companies start hiring freely again, job-seekers with specialized skills and education will have plenty of good opportunities. Others will face a choice: Take a job with low pay—or none at all.

Job creation will likely remain weak for months or even years. But once employers do step up hiring, some economists expect job openings to fall mainly into two categories of roughly equal numbers:

■ Professional fields with higher pay. Think lawyers, research scientists and software engineers.

■ Lower-skill and lower-paying jobs, like home health care aides and store clerks.

And those in between? Their outlook is bleaker. Economists foresee fewer moderately paid factory supervisors, postal workers and office administrators.

That's the sobering message American workers face as they celebrate Labor Day at a time of high unemployment, scant hiring and a widespread loss of job security. Not until 2014 or later is the nation expected to have regained all, or nearly all, the 8.4 million jobs lost to the recession. Millions of lost jobs in real estate, for example, aren't likely to be restored this decade, if ever.

On Friday, the government said the August unemployment rate ticked up to 9.6 percent. Not enough jobs were created to absorb the growing number of people seeking work. The unemployment rate has exceeded 9 percent for 16 months, the longest such stretch in nearly 30 years.

The crisis poses a threat to President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress, whose hold on the House and Senate appears to be at increasing risk because of voter discontent.

Even when the job market picks up, many people will be left behind. The threat stems, in part, from the economy's continuing shift from one driven by manufacturing to one fueled by service industries.

Pay for future service-sector jobs will tend to vary from very high to very low. At the same time, the number of middle-income service-sector jobs will shrink, according to government projections. Any job that can be automated or outsourced overseas is likely to continue to decline.

The service sector's growth could also magnify the nation's income inequality, with more people either affluent or financially squeezed. The nation isn't educating enough people for the higher-skilled service-sector jobs of the future, economists warn.

"There will be jobs," says Lawrence Katz, a Harvard economist. "The big question is what they are going to pay, and what kind of lives they will allow people to lead? This will be a big issue for how broad a middle class we are going to have."

On one point there's broad agreement: Of 8 million-plus jobs lost to the recession—in fields like manufacturing, real estate and financial services—many, perhaps most, aren't coming back.

In their place will be jobs in health care, information technology and statistical analysis. Some of the new positions will require complex skills or higher education. Others won't—but they won't pay very much, either.

"Our occupational structure is really becoming bifurcated," says Richard Florida, a professor at University of Toronto. "We're becoming more of a divided nation by the work we do."

By 2018, the government forecasts a net total of 15.3 million new jobs. If that proves true, unemployment would drop far closer to a historical norm of 5 percent.

Nearly all the new jobs will be in the service sector, the Labor Department says. The nation's 78 million baby boomers will need more health care services as they age, for example. Demand for medical jobs will rise. And innovations in high technology and alternative energy are likely to spur growth in occupations that don't yet exist.

Hiring can't come fast enough for the 14.9 million unemployed Americans. Counting part-time employees who would prefer full-time jobs, plus out-of-work people who have stopped looking for jobs, the number of "underemployed" is 26.2 million.

Manufacturing has shed 2 million jobs since the recession began. Construction has lost 1.9 million, financial services 651,000.

But the biggest factor has been the bust in real estate. The vanished jobs range from construction workers and furniture makers to loan officers, appraisers and material suppliers. Moody's Analytics estimates the total number of housing-related jobs lost at 2.4 million. When you include commercial real estate, the number is far higher.

One of them is Martha Escobar, who last month lost her $13.50-an-hour job cleaning an office tower owned by JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Century City, Calif. She was one of 16 janitors, mostly single mothers, who lost jobs as part of the real estate crunch that's squeezed landlords.

Some of them traveled to New York on Thursday to try to pressure JPMorgan to get its cleaning contractor to take them back, given that the bank earned $8.1 billion during the first half of this year.

"I don't know what I am going to do if I can't get my job back," Escobar, 41, said.

JPMorgan Chase spokesman Gary Kishner said the bank has no say over the layoffs, which he said are handled by the building's cleaning contractor.

On top of real estate-related job losses, manufacturing is likely to keep shedding jobs, sending lower-skilled work overseas. Millions who worked in those fields will need to find jobs in higher-skilled or lower-paying occupations.

> *We're becoming more of a divided nation by the work we do.*

"The big fear is the country is simply not preparing workers for the kind of skills that the country is going to need," says Gautam Godhwani, CEO of SimplyHired.com, which tracks job listings.

Sectors likely to grow fastest, according to economists and government projections, are:

HEALTH CARE

The sector is expected to be the leading job generator, adding 4 million by 2018, according to Labor Department data. An aging population requires more doctors and nurses, physical therapists, home health aides and pharmacists.

Many of these jobs will pay well. Physical therapists averaged about $76,000 last year, according to the department's data. Others pay far less. Home health care aides earned an average of just $21,600.

Home health care and personal care aides are expected to add about 900,000 jobs by 2018—50 percent more than in 2008.

Jennifer Gamboa of Body Dynamics Inc., an Arlington, Va.-based physical therapy firm, says the drive to reduce health care costs should benefit her profession, which can treat pain less expensively than surgery. Gamboa plans to add two employees in the next year.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Technology could be an economic elixir as computers and online networks expand ways to automate services, distribute media and communicate.

Companies will need people to build and secure those networks. That should boost the number of programmers, network administrators and security specialists by 45 percent to 2.1 million by 2018, the government forecasts. Most of these jobs will provide above-average pay.

Technology pay averaged $84,400 in 2008—nearly double the average private-sector pay of $45,400, according to an analysis of the most recent full-year data by the TechAmerica Foundation, a research group.

NEW INDUSTRIES

Deepak Advani, an IBM executive, has a title he says didn't exist five years ago: "Vice president of predictive analytics."

Companies and government agencies have amassed data on behavior ranging from shopping habits to criminal activity. Predictive analytics is the art of determining what to do with that data. How should workers' time be deployed? How best to target customers? Such jobs could grow 20 percent by 2018, the government predicts.

Still, economists say more will be needed to boost job growth. The answer may be some technological breakthrough akin to the personal computer or the Internet.

"Most big booms come from a particular sector that moves the rest of the economy," said Richard Freeman, a Harvard labor economist.

Technology spurred job growth after the 1982 and 1991 recessions. The PC became revolutionary in the early 1980s. Internet use exploded after the Mosaic Web browser was introduced in 1994. Housing eventually lifted employment after the 2001 dot-com bust.

"There's a lack of clarity on what the next big thing is going to be this time," said David Card, an economics professor at the University of California.

Until there is, many people will have to lower expectations and living standards as they enter fields with less pay and less job stability, said Dan Finnigan, CEO of online employment service Jobvite.

"People who are unemployed have to embrace this future that they are going to have many jobs," he said. "We will always be working on the next gig."

Campus Life

USDA launches 'Recipes for Healthy Kids' Challenge'

Competition to improve school meals and the health of children across the nation

AP

The Healthy Kids Challenge aims to improve school meals and the health of children across the nation through the creation of exciting new recipes for inclusion on school lunch menus.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Tuesday last week the Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge to improve school meals and the health of children across the nation through the creation of exciting new recipes for inclusion on school lunch menus. The competition—part of the first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative—will draw on the talents of chefs, students, food service professionals, and parents or other community members working together to develop tasty, nutritious, kid-approved foods.

"The Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge is an important contribution to our overall efforts to combat childhood obesity," the first lady said. "It's vital that we provide our children with healthy and nutritious food in school and help them learn healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime."

Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge teams will have the opportunity to submit original recipes that meet nutritional requirements in three categories: whole grain foods, dark green and/or orange vegetables, and dry beans and peas (legumes). Submissions must be taste tested by at least 30 students who participate in the National School Lunch Program.

"Improving the nutrition and health of kids across the nation is a national priority and the Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge is a great way to engage the creativity of talents of chefs, students, food service professionals, and parents or other community members," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Through the challenge website, families can vote with their forks and help introduce exciting new recipes into the National School Lunch Program and beyond."

There will be a grand prize chosen by the judging panel as well as a Popular Choice winner based on public voting. The judges will also choose award winners for the top two recipes in each category. Winning teams will be invited to prepare their nutrition-packed meals alongside White House chefs. To recognize and share the culinary creativity nationwide the top ten recipes in each category will be published in a Recipes for Healthy Kids Cookbook to share with students and families.

Improving USDA's child nutrition programs on behalf of 32 million kids across the nation is a top priority of the Obama Administration. Strengthening the Child Nutrition Act, which authorizes USDA's child nutrition programs including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, is the legislative centerpiece of First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! campaign. This legislation will serve as a down payment in battling hunger and food insecurity while providing critical resources to raise a generation of healthy children. To learn more about the First Lady's Let's Move! campaign, visit www.LetsMove.gov.

FNS oversees the administration of 15 nutrition assistance programs, including the child nutrition programs, which touch the lives of one in four Americans over the course of a year. More information about FNS and its nutrition assistance programs is available at www.fns.usda.gov.

The deadline for recipe submissions is Dec. 30, 2010. For further information about the Recipes for Healthy Kids Challenge, please visit the contest Web site at http://recipesforkidschallenge.com/. ***(USDA)***

What's hot on campus: Textbook rentals

By TRISH WILSON
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

PHILADELPHIA—Gregory Dyer, a Villanova University senior, stood in an aisle at his campus bookstore searching for his introduction-to-art textbook. He gasped. New, "Living With Art" would cost the English major $130. Used, it was a mere $97.50.

Then he noticed the bright orange label saying he could rent it for $21.99. Intrigued, he followed the signs to a Chegg.com iPad stand and punched in his rental order, adding the $6.99 for shipping.

"I saved 70 bucks!" he said.

Across the country, college students scavenging for affordable textbooks are beginning to realize that they have something in common with airline passengers. Same book, same destination, but some people pay full price, and some find bargains.

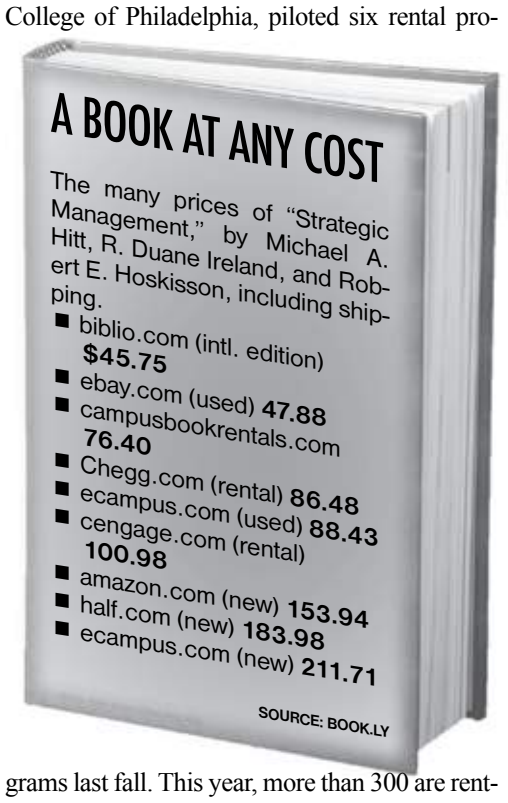
For years, students have relied on used copies and online purchases for relief from escalating textbook costs. But this semester, hundreds of thousands are benefiting from a convergence of new legislation encouraging professors to be aware of costs and a market-driven explosion in rental offerings.

"It's the biggest, hottest thing this year in college bookstores," said Frank Henninger, director of Villanova's campus bookstore. Last year, his shop rented not a single book. This year, it's renting 620 titles through a partnership with a national leader in the textbook rental business, Chegg.com.

"This groundswell of mass numbers of college bookstores renting books occurred like a rogue wave," he said.

In just two years, the number of campus bookstores offering rentals has jumped from a few dozen to 1,500, according to the National Association of College Stores.

Barnes & Noble, which operates 637 campus bookstores, including those at Temple, the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, and Community College of Philadelphia, piloted six rental programs last fall. This year, more than 300 are renting textbooks, accounting for about 30 percent of sales on a given campus.


A BOOK AT ANY COST
The many prices of "Strategic Management," by Michael A. Hitt, R. Duane Ireland, and Robert E. Hoskisson, including shipping.
biblio.com (intl. edition) $45.75
ebay.com (used) 47.88
campusbookrentals.com 76.40
Chegg.com (rental) 86.48
ecampus.com (used) 88.43
cengage.com (rental) 100.98
amazon.com (new) 153.94
half.com (new) 183.98
ecampus.com (new) 211.71
SOURCE: BOOK.LY

"It has exploded. It really has," said Jade Roth, vice president of books and digital strategy for Barnes & Noble College Booksellers.

Renting is among the cheapest of several options, Roth said, running down a typical cost breakdown. If your typical text costs $100 for a new edition, used will cost $75, an e-book—or digital version—$55, and a rental $45.

That option worked for Villanova student Paul Passariello, 21, a senior from Middletown, N.J. Passariello, a business major, thought he might have to spend $400 for two books: "Strategic Management and Auditing" and "Assurance Services."

Instead, he rented them online at the bookstore for $150.

Not exactly a steal, he said, but "the lesser of two evils."

The rental boom is fueled by pressure from Congress to rein in textbook costs. Legislation that took effect July 1 requires publishers to tell professors the price of the books they are ordering, and mandates that colleges include textbook costs in Internet course schedules. That way, students will have plenty of time to shop for cheaper editions.

The law, part of the Higher Education Opportunity Act, also requires publishers to make clear what is different in each edition, which may dampen professors' tendency to order the latest, and most expensive, version.

"This will give professors the opportunity to make a choice," said State Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-West Chester, Pa.), who has sponsored a bill that echoes the federal legislation.

"'Is it worth it, or can I supplement this with Internet materials and new readings from the library?' Right now they automatically assume the new edition will have the latest materials."

Nicole Allen of the advocacy organization Student Public Interest Research Groups said that in a survey of 300 professors, 77 percent said publishers rarely mentioned the price of the book when taking orders.

"The textbook market is kind of an anomaly," Allen said. "The people who are choosing the books don't actually have to buy them, so they are not as economically motivated as students would be."

Her group estimates students have been spending $900 a year on books—reflecting price increases in textbooks four times the pace of inflation over the last 20 years.

At Temple University's bookstore Monday, the first day of class, bewildered first-year students wandered the aisles trying to figure out what to do.

Freshman Breland Moore had budgeted $200 for her books. She didn't realize she could rent, so she preordered online with the campus bookstore a week before classes, clicking the "used" option in every category.

When the Reading, Pa., native opened her box after waiting in line for 1 1/2 hours, she found that none of the six were used. Price tag? $425.

And she still had three more to buy.

Five aisles away, Maria Toews, a transfer student from Messiah College near Harrisburg, Pa., considered her options. "Russian Grammar in Literary Contexts" cost $102. There were no used copies. It was not for rent. Toews had a total of $300—to last until she got her first paycheck, which would be after she found a job. She left the bookstore without making the purchase.

A group of Penn graduates may have come up with a price-comparison site for the stressed student shopper: the Expedia.com of textbook sites.

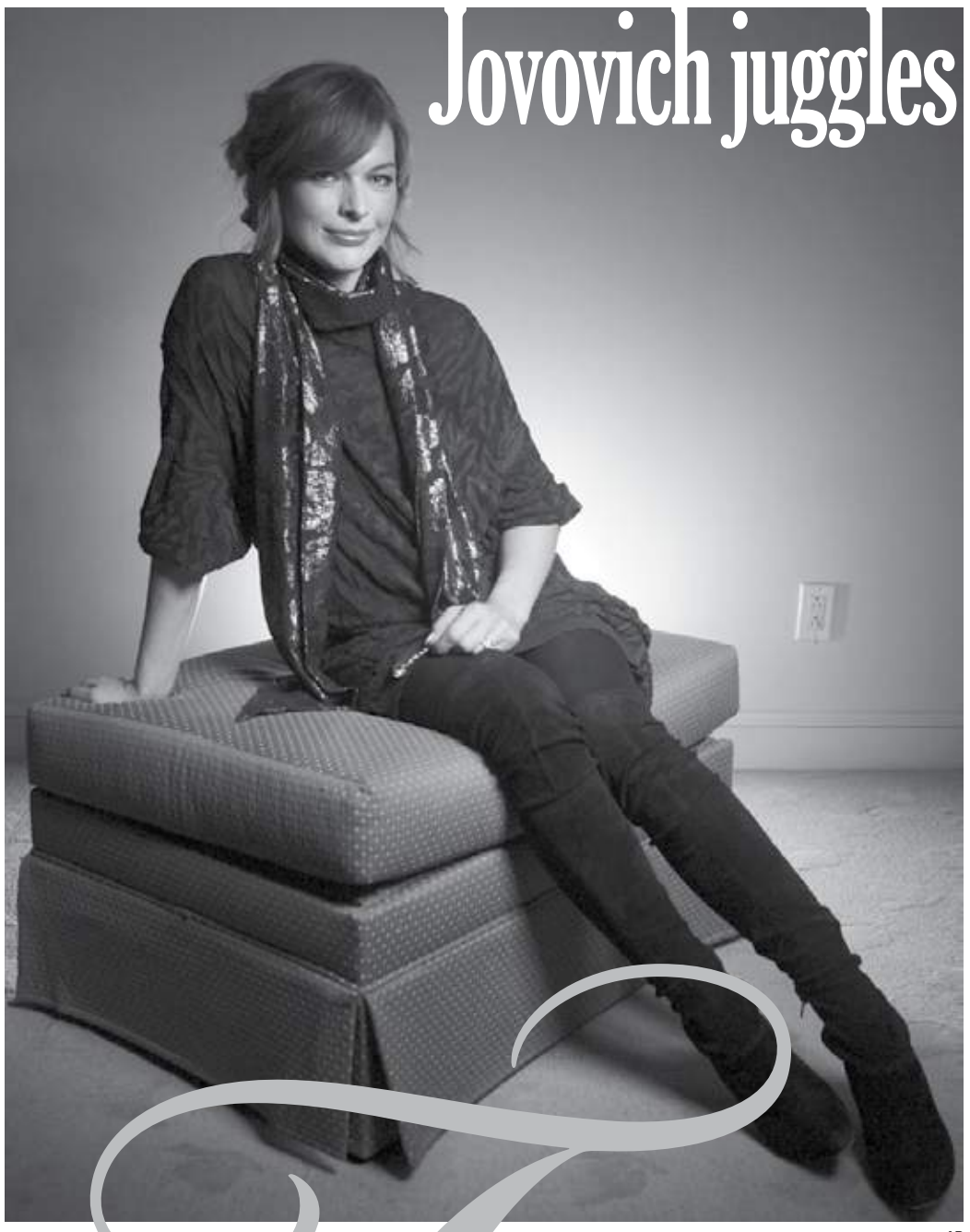
Book.ly searches 20 book providers to help students find the cheapest price.

It's the brainchild of Book.ly chief executive officer Roman Pedan, 22, a computer science and business major who as an undergraduate combed the Web each semester to find the best deal. The cumbersome process ate hours of his time but saved hundreds of dollars.

Last year, for his senior design project, he worked with his brother to create a website that expedites the search. Students can punch in the title or ISBN number of their books to find new, used, rented, or e-books at a wide range of prices.

Life & Style

Jovovich juggles zombies, serious film fest roles



AP

Actress Milla Jovovich of the film "Stone" poses for a portrait while promoting the film at the Toronto International Film Festival Thursday Sept. 09, 2010.

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

TORONTO (AP)—Milla Jovovich does not just want to rule the box office by killing zombies.

She aims to show versatility beyond her "Resident Evil" action-horror franchise with a pair of movies at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Jovovich co-stars with Robert De Niro and Edward Norton in the psychological drama "Stone," which premiered at Toronto over the weekend ahead of its theatrical release in October. Her second Toronto film, the teen comedy "Dirty Girl," also premiered at the festival over the weekend.

"I just keep chugging away at the smaller, more interesting character studies that I get to play," Jovovich said in an interview. "The 'Resident Evil' world is amazing. I love it and I love the action. But really, when you do the little indies, you get a chance to play the parts you don't normally play."

Jovovich, 34, led the weekend box office with $27.7 million for "Resident Evil: Afterlife," the fourth installment in the series, in which she reprises her role as a superhero slaying ravenous zombies that have overrun the world.

The "Resident Evil" movies are overseen by Jovovich's husband, director Paul W.S. Anderson, who also is directing her in a 3-D adaptation of "The Three Musketeers," which features Orlando Bloom and Academy Award winner Christoph Waltz and is due in theaters next year.

Jovovich also has starred in such big studio productions as "The Fifth Element" and "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc," appeared in Ben Stiller's "Zoolander" and Spike Lee's "He Got Game," and has done such smaller films as "The Claim" and "Dummy."

In "Dirty Girl," which is seeking a theatrical distributor at the Toronto festival, Jovovich co-stars with Juno Temple, Mary Steenburgen, William H. Macy and Dwight Yoakam in the tale of a teen bad girl. In "Stone," Jovovich plays the wife of a prison inmate (Norton) who seduces a parole officer (De Niro) to try to secure her husband's release.

Co-star Norton said Jovovich brought both her beauty and an exotic spirit to the role.

"I knew she had this in her," Norton said. "It's a weird comparison, but she reminded me of Karen Black or one of those great actresses of the '70s who though beautiful was always kind of finding a little bit of a funky kink in what they were doing and didn't feel like they were out of central casting."

The "Resident Evil" movies have left Jovovich somewhat typecast, making more serious roles a bit tougher to land, Jovovich said. "Stone" director John Curran said he initially had doubts that she could pull off the role but that Jovovich aced her audition.

Jovovich is not complaining about her main gig as an action hero, though.

"I'm really lucky to have a four-picture franchise. Not many women in Hollywood are given the opportunity to helm a big action franchise," Jovovich said. "So it's a big honor, and I keep doing smaller movies that give me a chance to play something different from Alice in 'Resident Evil' and to really grow as an actress."

Vatican library reopens after 3-year restoration

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican's Apostolic Library is reopening to scholars following a three-year, €9-million ($11.5-million) renovation to install climate-controlled rooms for its precious manuscripts and state-of-the-art security measures to prevent theft and loss.

The library, started by Pope Nicholas V in the 1450s, houses one of the world's best collections of illuminated manuscripts. It includes the oldest known complete Bible, dating from about 325 and believed to have been one of the 50 bibles commissioned by Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman leader.

It reopens its frescoed halls to scholars Sept. 20. Library officials took pains to note that the renovation work was completed on time—a rarity in Italy but also an acknowledgment of the inconvenience the three-year closure caused many scholars who had to suspend their research while its collections of tens of thousands of volumes were in storage.

Cardinal Raffaele Farina, the Vatican's chief librarian, thanked those researchers "who understood the reason for the closure."

"Given the amount of what had to be done—the noise and the intrusiveness of the technical and construction work necessary—we decided the library inevitably had to close," Farina told reporters Monday inside the frescoed Sistine Hall.

Some 4,000 to 5,000 scholars are given permission to conduct research in the library every year; access is generally restricted to academics conducting post-graduate level research. None of the items in the library can be checked out, and rules for working inside are strict: No pens, food or even mineral water are allowed in the manuscript reading room.

Researchers will now find improved communications and elevator access to the Vatican's vast collections, as well as a new tower inside the Vatican's Belvedere Courtyard to ferry manuscripts from their bomb-proof bunker to climate-controlled consultation rooms.

First Year Death Anniversary

Dr. Jose Lujan Chong

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Anniversary of the passing of our dearly beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention will be offered every morning at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan, beginning September 16, 2010.

On the final day September 24, 2010 the Eucharist Mass Celebration will be offered at 6:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served immediately after.

†Dr. Jose Lujan Chong
July 25, 1924 – September 24, 2009

Your Thoughts and Prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You, SiYu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow

Children & Family

Obama children's book 'Of Thee I Sing' out Nov. 16

NEW YORK (AP)—Coming two weeks after Election Day, a book from President Barack Obama for some of America's non-voters: inspirational stories for children about American pioneers.

"Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters" is a tribute to 13 groundbreaking Americans, from the first president, George Washington, to baseball great Jackie Robinson to artist Georgia O'Keeffe. It will be released Nov. 16 by Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, which will officially announce the new work Tuesday. Knopf declined to identify the other 10 subjects.

Obama is not the first president to write for young people. Jimmy Carter's "The Little Baby Snoogle-Fleejer" was published in 1995, more than a decade after he left office. More in line with Obama's effort, Theodore Roosevelt collaborated with Henry Cabot Lodge on "Hero Tales from American History," released in 1895, before Roosevelt was president.

Obama's book is illustrated by Loren Long, whose many credits include Watty Piper's classic "The Little Engine That Could," Randall de Seve's "Toy Boat" and Madonna's "Mr. Peabody's Apples." Long wrote and illustrated the children's stories "Otis" and "Drummer Boy." His cover design for "Of Thee I Sing" is a sunny impression of presidential daughters Sasha and Malia Obama walking their dog, Bo, along a grassy field.

Random House children's president and publisher Chip Gibson lauded the new Obama book, which is intended for readers ages 3 and up.

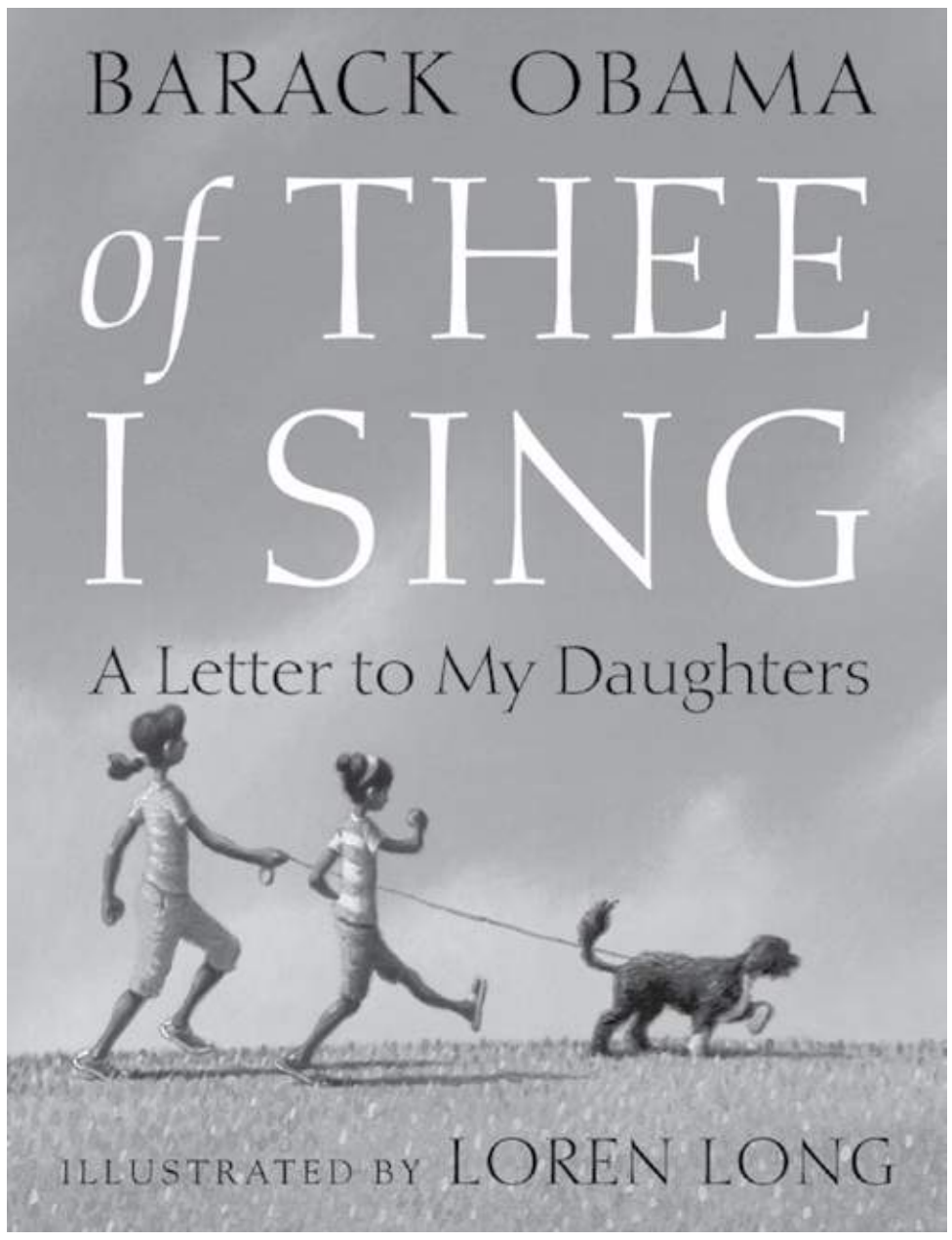
"It is an honor to publish this extraordinary book, which is an inspiring marriage of words and images, history and story," Gibson said Monday in a statement. "'Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters' celebrates the characteristics that unite all Americans—the potential to pursue our dreams and forge our own paths."

Obama's 40-page book will have a first printing of 500,000 copies and a list price of $17.99. Both of Obama's previous works, the memoir "Dreams From My Father" and the policy book "The Audacity of Hope," are million sellers published by Crown, a division of Random House Inc.

The president will donate any author proceeds to "a scholarship fund for the children of fallen and disabled soldiers serving our nation," the publisher said in a statement.

Obama agreed with Random House in 2004 to write a children's book, which, according to the publisher, he completed before he became president. "Of Thee I Sing" is part of a $1.9 million, three-book deal with Random House reached in 2004, according to a disclosure report filed in 2005, when Obama was a U.S. senator from Illinois. The other two books were nonfiction.

A financial disclosure form released by the White House in May 2010 refers to an agreement—originated in 2004, amended on Jan. 9, 2009, shortly before Obama became president—for a "nonfiction work, the subject to be determined," that would not come out while he was in office.



AP

In this book cover image released by Random House Children's Books, "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters," by Barack Obama, is shown.

The children's book and the nonfiction work are separate projects, although both are part of the three-book deal, said Obama's literary representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett. The other nonfiction book was "The Audacity of Hope," released in 2006.

Neither Barnett nor the publisher would comment on the timing of the new book's release.

Obama also had a $500,000 agreement with Random House in January 2009 for an abridged young-adult edition of "Dreams of My Father" to be "prepared and released by the publisher subject to the president's approval," according to the disclosure form.

Knopf spokeswoman Noreen Herits declined to say if Obama would promote his children's book or whether it would be available in audio or digital formats, although an official with knowledge of the book said an e-edition would come out simultaneously with the print version. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the project and asked not to be identified.

The e-book is unlikely to be available on Amazon.com's Kindle reader, the most popular e-device, which does not allow for illustrated texts. Random House does not currently sell books directly through the Apple iPad store, but in a separate announcement Monday the publisher said it had begun a partnership with the Seattle-based digital company Smashing Ideas to work on children's books apps for electronic devices, including the iPad.

Obama's original agreement for the children's book includes a royalties scale for an audio books edition.

Numerous books by and about presidents are scheduled for the fall, including Carter's White House diaries, biographies of Washington and Roosevelt and George W. Bush's "Decision Points," which arrives a week before "Of Thee I Sing" and will be published by Crown.

'Slumdog' director Boyle returns for '127 Hours'

TORONTO (AP)—"Slumdog Millionaire" director Danny Boyle has delivered another grim crowd-pleaser to film festival crowds.

Boyle's survival tale "127 Hours," starring James Franco in the real-life story of a wilderness adventurer trapped by a fallen boulder, earned an explosive standing ovation Sunday night at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The premiere marked Boyle's return to the Toronto festival, where "Slumdog Millionaire" won the audience award as favorite film two years ago on its way to box-office success and best-picture triumph at the Academy Awards.

Boyle thanked the audience for the lift the festival gave "Slumdog Millionaire" and said he and his crew scrambled to make the deadline for a return trip to Toronto with "127 Hours," which finished shooting just last May.

"A lot of people went nuts to get it here," Boyle said.

Franco

Due in theaters Nov. 5, "127 Hours" stars Franco in practically a one-man show as Aron Ralston, a climber trapped in a Utah canyon after his arm was pinned under a boulder in 2003. On the fifth day of his ordeal, Ralston hacked off his arm to free himself.

Ralston attended the premiere with his wife and sister and joined Boyle, Franco and co-stars Amber Tamblyn, Kate Mara and Clemence Poesy to answer audience questions after the screening.

The film was based on Ralston's best-selling book, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place." When he first met with Boyle about a film version, Ralston said he preferred telling the story as a documentary, but he thanked Boyle for convincing him that a dramatic adaptation would serve the story better.

"As a documentary, it would not have been anywhere near as powerful as that was," said Ralston, who choked back tears after the screening.

Swift, West live up to the hype at the VMAs

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

He derided himself as a jerk; she told him he wasn't as bad as his misdeeds. He gave a sarcastic ode to his boorish behavior; she sang of an opportunity to grow from a very public stumble.

Both Kanye West and Taylor Swift took the stage at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles on Sunday and addressed a matter from last year's VMAs that had refused to die. Their separate but equally emotional performances seemed to provide resolution to the incident, while overshadowing the show's other moments, including Lady Gaga's eight VMA wins.

This year's Swift-West drama was a sequel to 2009's unscripted debacle in which West interrupted Swift's acceptance speech to proclaim that her trophy should have gone to Beyonce. The incident left Swift with hurt feelings, but West was the one who was seriously damaged from an intense backlash that took both a personal and professional toll.

As this year's VMAs drew closer, the buzz of a possible Swift-West showdown grew daily. Both were nominated for awards (which they lost), both were expected to perform and each has an album coming out this fall.

West increased the potential of fireworks with a recent rant on Twitter in which he again apologized to Swift and talked about how he had suffered emotionally and economically. Then on Saturday, The Associated Press learned that Swift would be singing a song about last year's most talked-about moment.

But instead of skewering West in song as Swift has done to others, she offered an olive branch with her song "Innocent," written earlier this year and due to appear on her new album: "Every one of us has messed up, too. ... I hope you remember today is never too late to be brand new."

The 20-year-old's poignant and powerful ode—which was introduced with a video montage that referenced last year's ceremony—sympathized with West's difficult time in the spotlight and his own admissions that his ego has often gotten in his way.

"Thirty-two and still growing up now; who you are is not what you did," she sang seriously and softly, adding: "You're still an innocent."

West's song, which was preceded by scattered boos from the audience, didn't seem to address last year's incident, but talked about the obnoxious behavior that has too often overshadowed his musical talent.

"I always find something wrong; you've been putting up with my (expletive) for too long," he sang, before launching into an unprintable chorus, which included the line: "Let's have a toast to scumbags."

With all that pathos, no other celebrities could really compete. Still, Lady Gaga tried—as the most outrageously dressed—and that's saying something, given Katy Perry's barely there outfit and Ke$ha's garbage bag-dress.

Gaga accepted her video of the year award with an outfit sure to anger PETA: a dress and chapeau made of what seemed to be cuts of raw beef, including a meat purse. It was one of her three zany outfits of the evening. She arrived in a spectacular outfit by the late Alexander McQueen: a Victorian-inspired gown and a Mohawk feather headdress atop a long white wig, with monstrous stilettos that made her look like she was on stilts. Later, she changed into a black dress so overflowing she needed help to get onstage to accept one of her trophies.

Cher—an over-the-top diva from a different era—gave Gaga her best-video award and noted she had been raising eyebrows when Lady Gaga "was still Baby Gaga."

Gaga was teary-eyed during her victories, and sang the title of her new album, "Born This Way," as she accepted the last award.

There were few other highlights, despite performances by Usher, Eminem and Rihanna, Justin Bieber and Linkin Park, and appearances by Nicki Minaj and the cast of MTV's "Jersey Shore."

Host Chelsea Handler gave the show its traditional bawdiness, though her jokes often fell flat. She did have a few zingers, most of them vulgar.

A pre-taped portion of her opening featured the host getting spanked multiple times by show participants in a backstage hallway before running into the recently freed Lindsay Lohan, who also gave her a swat.

"Have you been drinking?" Lohan demanded from Handler. "Do you think anyone wants to work with a drunk? Take it from me! They don't!"

Later, on stage, Handler implored the all-star audience to get wild.

Oprah Winfrey sending audience of 300 to Australia

CHICAGO (AP)—They shrieked, they gasped, they cried, they hugged—and that was before Oprah Winfrey's studio audience got a trip to Australia.

Winfrey kicked off her 25th and final season of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on Monday with promised surprises. After teasing the 300 audience members with a suggestion she might take them on a trip to New York, Philadelphia or Los Angeles, she said her last season merited something "bigger."

"So I started to think about where would I most want to go," she said over the din of an audience that suddenly understood they were going somewhere far away.

"Maybe I should take you all with me to the other side of the world. We're going to Australia," Winfrey shouted.

With that, a mock-up of a Qantas jet rolled onto stage, its door opened and actor John Travolta, who also flies airplanes, stepped out dressed as a Qantas pilot.

Winfrey, who opened her 19th season six years ago by giving out cars to everyone in her studio audience, will take this group in December on an eight-day, seven-night trip.

In Australia, Qantas CEO Alan Joyce said the trip was a "fantastic opportunity" to promote the airline and Australian tourism.

Tourism Minister Martin Ferguson welcomed the opportunity to showcase Australia to Winfrey's huge audience.

"Oprah is a global household name and her star power has the potential to lift Australia's profile as a premier tourist destination," Ferguson said in a statement.

The studio audience Monday was made up of some of who the program called its most loyal viewers over the years. And throughout the show, Winfrey introduced audience members, including a man named Larry who received word he'd been invited to the program via a taped message from Winfrey delivered to his house by NASCAR driver Jimmy Johnson.

AP

In this photo taken Sept. 9, 2010 and provided by Harpo Productions, inc., Oprah Winfrey, top, stands with audience members after making the announcement she will be taking the studio audience on a trip to Australia during taping of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago.

There were some surprises for Winfrey as well. Actor Don Johnson, who declined to appear on the program when it first aired in 1986—when he was a much bigger television star than Winfrey—came by to explain he'd wanted to appear but "Miami Vice" bosses wouldn't let him because he was too busy.

"But I understand things have been going OK for you," he joked to Winfrey.

Winfrey teared up during a surprise appearance from singer/songwriter Paul Simon, who sang a song he'd written in honor of the show's 10th season with updated lyrics.

The rest of this week's shows will include an appearance by country music stars The Judds, and a return to Williamson, West Virginia, where she filmed a town hall episode about AIDS in 1987. The week will end with a live show on Friday, in which Winfrey will announce her first book club selection in nearly a year.

This season a parade of celebrities are likely to follow Travolta, who danced with Winfrey to open Monday's program. Over the years, Winfrey has interviewed a host of celebrities, including Michael Jackson, Julia Roberts and Tom Cruise—who made headlines when he jumped on her sofa to proclaim his love for wife Katie Holmes.

Winfrey also might land some major interviews, as she has done throughout the years with presidential candidates George W. Bush and later Barack Obama.

But Janice Peck, author of "The Age of Oprah: Cultural Icon for the Neoliberal Era," expects Winfrey will fill her season with giveaways, flashbacks and visits from past guests "who can come in and talk about how they've been affected by her."

While Monday's season premiere is the beginning of the end of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," it's not the end of Winfrey. She's set to launch her Oprah Winfrey Network, or OWN, on cable Jan. 1.

The end of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will be featured on that network with "Behind the Scenes: Oprah's 25th Season," a one-hour series giving viewers a look at the making of the last season of Winfrey's talk show.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Joaquin Phoenix getting rematch with Letterman

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Joaquin Phoenix's last appearance on David Letterman's show was memorably weird. Now they're getting back together. The CBS show said Monday that Phoenix was booked to appear on the "Late Show" on Sept. 22. A documentary on Phoenix's attempt to become a hip-hop musician, directed by Casey Affleck, was released this month. Phoenix's odd guest turn with Letterman in February 2009 was punctuated by uncomfortable silence and Letterman's request that the bearded Phoenix "tell us about your days with the Unabomber." It drew about 8 million online views on YouTube and the CBS website. Letterman will replay that show Thursday. Affleck's movie, called "I'm Still Here," opened in theaters last week.

Police: Montag, Pratt detained in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—Police say reality TV stars Spencer Pratt and Heidi Montag were briefly detained at a Costa Rica airport for illegal arms possession. Airport police chief Otto Arrieta says security officers found two handguns in the pair's luggage. He says the former stars of "The Hills" had not declared the weapons and did not have permits to have them in Costa Rica. They did not have ammunition. Arrieta said Pratt and Montag were detained for questioning Saturday, but released and allowed to leave the country the same day. Arrieta spoke Monday. The celebrities had been in Costa Rica since Aug. 14. Their representatives could not be reached for comment Monday.

Rushdie defends Muslims' right to build NYC mosque

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Satanic Verses" author Salman Rushdie is not a great fan of organized worship but believes an Islamic center and mosque should be permitted two blocks from ground zero. Rushdie's satirical novel led in the 1980s to worldwide riots by Muslims and calls for his death. He says he understands the "sensitivities" of building the site close to where thousands were killed during on Sept. 11, 2001. But he says U.S. constitutional rights to freedom of speech and religion should be honored. He adds that he is "not personally" a lover of mosques or any place of worship. But he says that if people "want a mosque, it seems absolutely right they should have it."

Bill Clinton visiting 'The Daily Show' on Thursday

NEW YORK (AP) — Comedy Central says former President Bill Clinton will visit "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" on Thursday. He is expected to talk about the Clinton Global Initiative, which annually convenes world leaders to grapple with pressing global concerns. This year's meeting is scheduled to take place next week in New York. Clinton appearance on "The Daily Show" will be his sixth.

John Mayer closes 3.7M-follower Twitter account

NEW YORK (AP)—John Mayer is losing friends—on the Internet at least. A spokeswoman for the pop singer says he has discontinued his Twitter account with his Battle Studies Tour "now at a close and a return to the studio planned." Mayer had more than 3.7 million followers on the social networking website. He used the account to invite University of South Carolina fans to see a free show in February before the start of the tour to promote his album "Battle Studies." An e-mailed statement says Mayer continues to communicate with fans through his blog. Mayer's hits include "Your Body is a Wonderland" and "Waiting on the World to Change."

Drunken indiscretion threatens happy roommate relationship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have gotten myself into a "pickle" and I don't know how to get out of it.

I rent a house with two roommates (both males) and have always followed a strict rule of not dating roommates or co-workers. One night, I came home after having a few drinks with friends. One of my roommates was up and we started talking. Then he started kissing me. I wasn't thinking clearly, and didn't object when he trotted me off to my room.

I do like him, but only as a friend. There are no sparks for me as there are for him. I don't want this to happen again, but I don't want to hurt him either. In an ideal world, I'd like to remain friends and roommates, not lovers. Do you have any suggestions?

CAN'T BELIEVE I BROKE MY RULE IN FLORIDA

DEAR CAN'T BELIEVE: Yes, I do. You need to quit drinking or institute another "rule" that you'll stop at two.

Inform your amorous roommate that in the cold sober light of day you regret what happened and don't want to repeat it. It won't "hurt" him; it will let him know where things stand, and it's important that he get that message. If you do remain roommates, maintain some distance—and don't come home "pickled" again because you know what could happen if you do.

DEAR ABBY: I am a girl in high school and have a friend, "Joey," who is gay. Joey saw another guy, "Eric," who he thought was cute, and he made me go over and ask Eric's friend if Eric is gay. His friend told me he is straight.

Eric lives in my neighborhood and we became good friends. He has asked me out and I would say yes, except that Joey said he likes him. Joey has never spoken to Eric and only likes him in an "appreciating" sense. And of course, there's the fact that Eric isn't gay.

What should I do? Does the "girl code" apply to your gay friends, too?

CONFLICTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR CONFLICTED: With the "girl code," girls agree not to date men another girl has her sights set on—theoretically, because there is the possibility that he can be snagged if there's no interference. But in a case like this, where a gay person "appreciates" someone who is straight, the chance is remote to nonexistent. Out of consideration for Joey's feelings, talk with him about this. I'm sure he will appreciate your concern for his feelings—and give you his OK.

DEAR ABBY: My cousin "Cecily" has been married for 30 years to a man the entire family thinks is wonderful. So did I, until I spotted him in a restaurant a few weeks ago kissing a woman half his age—and who was certainly not Cecily.

I feel awful with this knowledge, but feel worse about ruining their marriage. Do I have a responsibility to share this information with Cecily because she is family?

RELATED TO THE KISSIN' COUSIN
IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR RELATED: How would you feel if Cecily spotted your husband of 30 years canoodling with a young woman in a restaurant? Would you want to be warned? If the answer is yes, then have a word with your cousin. It may not ruin their marriage; it might help to save it.

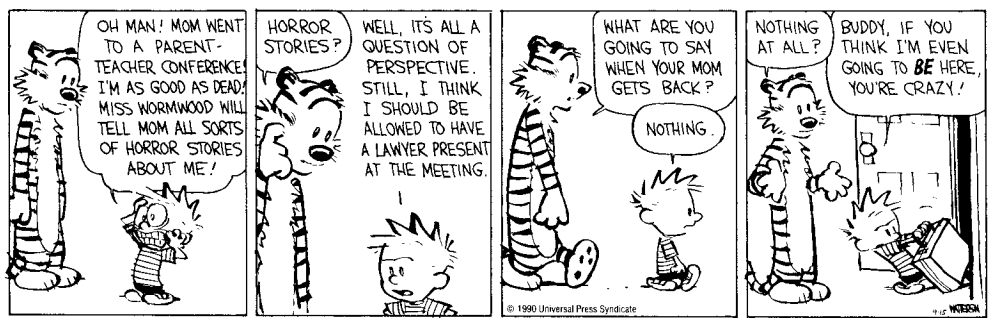
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MAN! MOM WENT TO A PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE! I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD! MISS WORMWOOD WILL TELL MOM ALL SORTS OF HORROR STORIES ABOUT ME!
HORROR STORIES?
WELL, IT'S ALL A QUESTION OF PERSPECTIVE. STILL, I THINK I SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT AT THE MEETING.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO SAY WHEN YOUR MOM GETS BACK?
NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL?
BUDDY, IF YOU THINK I'M EVEN GOING TO BE HERE, YOU'RE CRAZY!
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

HOW ARE YOU TODAY, ODIE?
YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP! YIP!
HE COULD HAVE JUST SAID "YIP"
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www.garfield.com
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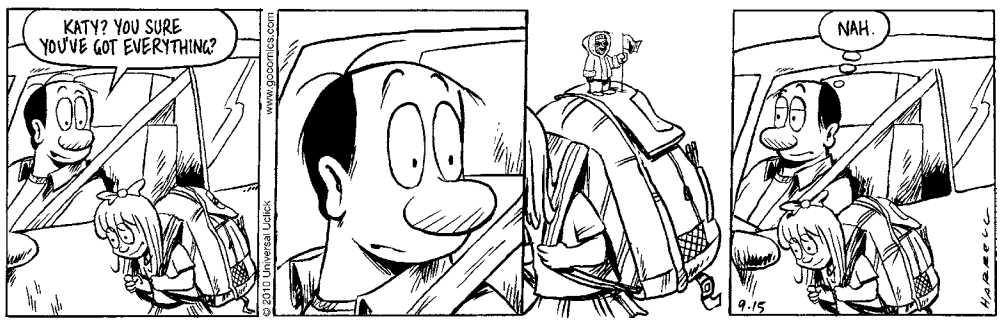
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW'S YOUR NEW FITNESS ROUTINE GOING?
GREAT. EVERY MORNING I DO TWENTY MINUTES ON THE OL' STATIONARY BIKE.
WHY AREN'T YOU PEDALING?
I USUALLY COAST FOR THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES.
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9-15

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Got older
5 A billion years
8 Common rhyme scheme
12 "Clair de —"
13 Lanka preceder
14 Incite
15 You can put a value on it
17 Angry
18 Number-logic puzzle
19 Conflict involving actual fighting
21 Verily
22 Veer
23 Owns
26 Parched
28 Synagogue VIP
31 Monad
33 Sweet potato
35 Fat
36 Black billiard ball
38 Stir-fry vessel
40 Petrol
41 Pay attention
43 Meadow
45 Large fig plant of India
47 Mean
51 Lip
52 Downtown street
54 Perfectly
55 Praise in rhyme
56 Pealed
57 Jason's ship
58 Neither mate
59 BPOE members

DOWN
1 Heidi's range
2 Mentor
3 Oklahoma city
4 Fake duck
5 Ocean inlet
6 Man-mouse link
7 Dark period
8 Southern
9 Bring lunch to work
10 Taj Mahal city
11 Milwaukee product
16 Managed, with "out"
20 Jointly possessed, perhaps
23 Shade
24 Singer DiFranco
25 Pie in the face, for one
27 Deviate off course
29 Bikini top
30 Egos' counterparts
32 In that direction
34 More spoiled, as bread
37 Links prop
39 Acute
42 Minion of Mephistopheles
44 Violinist Rieu
45 Early software version
46 Stench
48 Exam format
49 Sherman, e.g.
50 Early birds?
53 Kerfuffle

Solution time: 21 mins.

H	A	L	F	■	T	W	A	■	A	P	S	E
E	T	U	I	■	I	O	N	■	M	A	U	L
R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y	■	A	P	E	S
O	P	T	■	A	R	M	■	C	R	A	Z	E
■	■	■	C	I	A	■	S	P	Y	■	■	■
D	A	T	U	M	■	Z	E	A	L	O	T	S
O	N	U	S	■	H	E	X	■	L	A	N	A
S	I	X	T	E	E	N	■	N	I	F	T	Y
■	■	■	O	A	R	■	S	O	S	■	■	■
K	L	I	M	T	■	B	U	S	■	S	K	I
N	A	S	A	■	M	A	R	Y	L	A	N	D
E	M	I	R	■	E	R	G	■	E	M	I	L
E	A	S	Y	■	W	E	E	■	M	E	T	E

Yesterday's answer 9-15

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■		21			■	22			■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 26; Robin Thicke, 33; Tommy Lee Jones, 64; Oliver Stone, 64

Happy Birthday: Focus on making your life better. Decisions you must make may be difficult at first but will actually help you leave the negative in your life behind, with a bright future to look forward to. This is a great year for change and to rid yourself of any denial you've been harboring the past few years. Stand up and be counted. Your numbers are 2, 4, 12, 22, 26, 37, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Refuse to let anyone bully you into doing something you don't care to do. A problem with an agency, institution or regulation will stand in your way. Limit your travel and keep your thoughts to yourself. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Talks will lead to research, short trips or a study course. The more information you gather, the better your chances regarding a job or hobby you want to take part in. A romantic encounter is apparent. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Skip over whatever doesn't make sense and focus on what you know you can accomplish. Changes at home or with your finances are looking favorable and should be dealt with swiftly. Talk over your concerns and plans with someone who has experience and know-how. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Think about the interests or skills you want to pursue or offer to others. You have the potential to turn one of your attributes into a moneymaking endeavor. Romance is in the stars and socializing will lead to a passionate encounter. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You may think you have everything under control but the truth is that there is trouble brewing at home or with friends and can blow up if you don't accommodate some of the requests being made of you. Greater understanding and compromise are required. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love is in the stars and formulating an intimate agreement with someone will lead to a fun evening and a greater understanding of the possibilities that lie ahead. Show your emotions instead of hiding how you feel. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone will try to stand in your way or lead you in the wrong direction. Do your own research. You cannot leave anything to chance, especially when there are people waiting to sabotage your every move. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone who has something to contribute to your plans, ideas or a project should be contacted. A partnership may not start off well but it has the potential to turn into a profitable working relationship. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Trust in your own judgment and knowledge, not what someone tells you. If you are the one making the changes, you won't feel displaced. However, if you allow someone else to shift things around, you will be at a disadvantage. Discipline will be necessary. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do something when you know you are fully capable of the task. You have to show your wisdom, leadership, strength and courage if you want to surpass the expectations of others. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Problems will arise if you are too giving or attainable. A problem will arise if you don't limit your spending or are too willing to give to others. Take care of your needs and those of your family first. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your ability to deal will bring a contract or proposal, helping you get your ideas up and running. A partnership will lead to personal changes, making your life easier and offering the assistance you need to reach your goals and ease your stress. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You look at the big picture and are determined and hardworking. You are intense, passionate and progressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8	6	7	9
	4	7		9			1	
	6		5			4		
		5			7			
	9				4			
6			1	3		5		
9		4			6		5	2
1	2					8	3	
7						9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

6	4	7	2	5	3	8	1	9
3	9	1	7	8	6	2	5	4
2	8	5	9	1	4	3	7	6
5	6	8	3	9	7	4	2	1
9	2	3	1	4	5	6	8	7
7	1	4	8	6	2	9	3	5
1	5	2	6	3	9	7	4	8
4	3	6	5	7	8	1	9	2
8	7	9	4	2	1	5	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/14

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH (CT) Solution: 9 letters

C	I	L	O	H	T	A	C	O	L	U	M	B	U	S
I	H	N	O	O	N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	T
T	F	O	A	L	L	E	L	U	I	A	A	E	A	T
S	F	I	I	Y	F	A	I	T	H	E	K	T	S	E
I	U	N	S	R	Y	A	R	P	R	O	S	G	T	S
R	N	U	L	U	A	P	E	B	N	O	H	U	E	U
A	D	M	F	E	O	S	R	K	C	A	T	I	R	H
H	R	M	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C
C	A	O	R	J	A	H	G	R	C	L	A	D	Y	A
U	I	C	T	L	G	M	I	I	E	I	M	Y	C	S
E	S	S	T	I	A	N	E	T	L	W	V	O	H	S
T	E	A	N	R	G	O	A	L	E	E	O	U	A	A
E	R	K	Y	T	N	E	L	I	O	V	R	T	P	M
E	I	K	O	M	S	S	S	O	R	C	O	H	E	R
M	O	N	T	H	P	O	H	S	I	Ⓑ	Ⓔ	Ⓛ	Ⓛ	Y

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Alleluia, Altar, Bell, Bishop, Bread, Brian, Catholic, Celebrations, Chapel, Choir, Coleman, Columbus, Communion, Costa, Cross, Easter, Education, Eucharistic, Faith, Fundraiser, Guild, Harrington, Holy, Knight, Lady, Lent, Love, Mary, Massachusetts, Meet, Month, Paul, Pray, Religious, Seekonk, Smokie, St. Joseph, Team, Tower, Vicar, Youth

Yesterday's Answer: Fire pole

SALE: The topics of Wonderword for Kids' appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order. $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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A/C & REF. TECHNICIAN

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Saipan Tribune

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Wang Min
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pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO APPOINT GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR XIN YU YANG, Minor Child, By: WANG PING & ZHAO XI WEN, Petitioner.	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0456 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on October 5, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/
By Deputy Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. ALEX L. EVANGELISTA, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 10-0183-CV AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT ALEX L. EVANGELISTA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitiled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 11th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Saipan Tribune
Sports
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28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
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Tribune
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PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANGELITA PRESAS TALADTAD, Petitioner, vs. ALBERTO TUMANON TALADTAD, Respondent.	FCD-DI Civil Action No. 09-0560R SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on filed with the Court, within 30 days after service of the Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner which is:

P.O. Box 1537, Rota, MP 96951

As soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It can be prepared for your by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2010.

CLERK OF COURT
BERNADITA A. SABLAN

/s/ Winniefred DLG. Mendiola, Dep. Clerk

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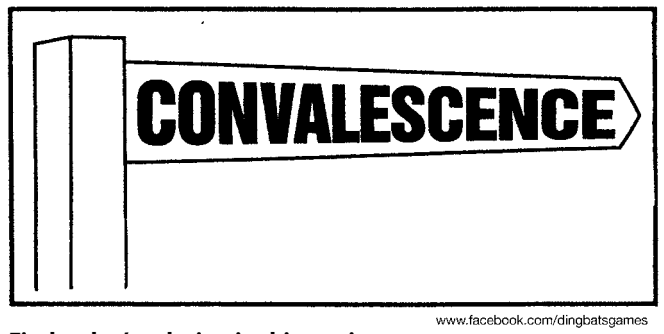

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Ravens spoil Jets opener, 10-9

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens gave the New York Jets some hard knocks—real ones.

The Jets intrigued audiences in the preseason with their no-holds-barred, behind-the-scenes TV show, but it was the Ravens who grabbed the spotlight Monday night. They held New York to 176 yards, six first downs, allowed Mark Sanchez just 74 yards passing and kept Rex Ryan's crew out of the end zone.

For those urging the Jets to put up or shut up, well, it was Baltimore that produced most of the highlights in a sloppy opener of New York's new home. The $1.6 billion New Meadowlands Stadium rocked with J-E-T-S chants, then the Ravens rocked Ryan's defense with enough big plays to silence the crowd of 78,127—if not the talkative coach and his players.

Billy Cundiff's 25-yard field goal in the third quarter provided the winning points, with Anquan Boldin, Baltimore's main offseason acquisition, gaining 65 yards on two passes against first-round draft pick Kyle Wilson. Boldin made the kind of impact the Ravens sought with seven receptions overall for 110 yards, at times toying with the Jets' vaunted secondary.

So did tight end Todd Heap, who caught six passes from a cool Joe Flacco for 72 yards.

The beginning was fiery, as expected, with Ray Rice and Shaun Ellis woofing at each other before kickoff. But it turned into a slopfest, as many of the openers were this weekend, with the Jets looking particularly undisciplined by drawing 14 penalties for 125 yards. They also were 1 for 11 on third downs.

New York's six first downs tied a franchise-low set in 1976.

The beginning was fiery, as expected, with Ray Rice and Shaun Ellis woofing at each other before kickoff. But it turned into a slopfest, as many of the openers were this weekend, with the Jets looking the most undisciplined.

New York's usually fierce defense sacked Flacco on Baltimore's first offensive play, forcing a fumble recovered by Sione Pouha. The Ravens' equally intense D held firm, and Nick Folk kicked a 23-yard field goal.

Pouha grabbed another fumble later in the quarter, by Willis McGahee, and Flacco was picked off by Antonio Cromartie on a sideline pass at the New York 3. The cornerback, acquired in a trade with San Diego to further bolster a secondary that features All-Pro CB Darrelle Revis, got a terrific block from his partner on a 66-yard runback to the Baltimore 31.

Two plays later, Shonn Greene lost the ball—he touched it only one more time the rest of the night and dropped a pass—and Baltimore embarked on an impressive 11-play, 76-yard drive for a 7-6 halftime lead. Of course, it was aided by Jets mistakes, the worst of which were Braylon Edwards—a wide receiver, of all things—running into Cundiff on a field goal attempt, giving the Ravens a first down to prolong the possession, and rookie Kyle Wilson's pass interference on T.J. Houshmandzadeh in the end zone.

McGahee scored from the 1 with 6 seconds left, but New York wasn't done committing penalties. The Jets were offside on the extra point and had 10 penalties for 100 yards in the opening half.

They weren't any more efficient in the second half. But they did get Folk's 48-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter to make it 10-9. Even then, however, they wasted a 22-yard punt return by Jim Leonhard to the Baltimore 35.

Cromartie's debut as a Jet was spotty, at best. Like Wilson, he was beaten several times by Boldin as the Ravens usually avoided Revis, even though the Jets' star cornerback missed the entire preseason in a holdout.

New York's LaDainian Tomlinson gained 62 yards rushing, carrying the load and looking good in spurts.

New York lost defensive tackle Kris Jenkins to a first-quarter knee injury.

AP

Baltimore Ravens tight end Todd Heap, left, makes a diving catch in front of New York Jets safety Jim Leonhard (36) during the fourth quarter of an NFL football game at New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Monday, Sept. 13, 2010.

Chiefs 21, Chargers 14

In Kansas City, Missouri, Kansas City held San Diego on four downs inside the 6-yard line in the final minute, clinching a tight win.

Jamaal Charles' 56-yard touchdown run and Dexter McCluster's team-record 94-yard punt return had given Kansas City a two-touchdown lead but the Chiefs had to cling on for victory.

San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers thoroughly outplayed Chiefs counterpart Matt Cassel, and drove the Chargers to a first-and-goal from the 4. But the pass on first down was incomplete, a run lost 2 yards, another pass sailed high and, with 39 seconds left, Rivers missed again.

Rivers was 22 for 39 for 298 yards and two touchdowns, several times victimizing a young Chiefs secondary for long gains. Cassel was 10 for 22 for 68 yards, including a 2-yard TD pass following a San Diego turnover.

Charles broke through a hole and sped 56 yards with 37 seconds left in the first quarter to tie the game 7-7.

Brandon Carr scooped up a fumble and ran 16 yards to the San Diego 12 before Cassel found rookie tight end Tony Moeaki with a touchdown pass from the 2 to make it 14-7.

McCluster returned a punt 94 yards to put the Chiefs on top 21-7 late in the half. The return broke Dante Hall's team record by one yard.

The Chargers cut the gap to 21-14 when Legedu Naanee hauled in a 59-yard touchdown pass with 2:23 left.

Riley takes exception to way some have ripped Heat

MIAMI (AP)—Pat Riley and LeBron James already have one thing in common. They're keeping track of what's been said about how this Miami Heat team got put together this summer.

It seems to be fueling both of them.

Speaking at length with reporters for the first time since the Heat acquired James and Chris Bosh to play alongside Dwyane Wade this summer, Riley revealed he thought some critics of Miami's roster moves should "get a life." He is also certain it'll be a motivating point for his team throughout the season.

"I know one thing," Riley said. "We will show up and we will play games. And our team will be ready. And I think that's the way we can answer all the critics."

Riley specifically cited Orlando Magic general manager Otis Smith and former NBA star turned analyst Charles Barkley as examples of people who took what the Heat president thought were unwarranted shots at the way the Heat went about business this summer. He also mentioned Magic coach Stan Van Gundy—Riley's former protege in Miami—as well.

On the day after Miami signed James to a six-year contract that lured him away from the Cleveland Cavaliers, Smith said, "I thought he was, I guess, more of a competitor."

Riley responded to that Friday, saying Smith made, "an absolutely stupid remark. He never made any kind of comment like that when he signed Rashard Lewis and he brought him down from Seattle with an $128 million contract."

Barkley went a step farther, saying James "is never going to be the guy" in Miami because he'll have to share the spotlight with Wade and Bosh. James responded a month later on Twitter, saying "Don't think for one (minute) that I haven't been taking mental notes of everyone taking shots at me this summer. And I mean everyone!"

Riley said he thought Barkley allowed his remarks to become personal attacks.

There have been countless other critics of James, Wade, Bosh and the rest of the Heat in recent weeks, and Riley said he's having trouble understanding the need for venom.

"I take a little bit of umbrage to some of the things that came from people in our game that all of a sudden have become the moral conscience or moral authority on the decisions that every team or some individual might make concerning his life or his career," Riley said.

Riley reiterated that he does not plan to hover over Heat coach Erik Spoelstra. Yes, Spoelstra and Riley will continue talking and strategizing, but even with the talent he assembled this summer, Riley doesn't envision becoming a teacher again on the practice floor.

For his part, Wade isn't surprised by that.

"I think he's going to sit back and watch," Wade said. "I think he has the coaches he believes in. I think he has the team he believes can do it. I think he's going to sit back and watch it unfold."

There are more pressing matters for the Heat to deal with before the Sept. 28 start of training camp, namely figuring out how all the new pieces like James, Bosh, Mike Miller, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Juwan Howard all fit into place.

Point guard is perhaps the biggest point of intrigue for Miami, with Riley suggesting there will be time when the Heat play without a true one on the court—no surprise there, considering Wade, James and Miller are all fine ballhandlers. Miami re-signed last year's point guard starter in Carlos Arroyo, and has former starter Mario Chalmers still recovering from an offseason ankle sprain.

"It wouldn't be something that would be a stretch for anybody," Riley said. "Wouldn't be a stretch for Dwyane to play that position. It would not be a stretch for LeBron. LeBron was basically a natural point guard until he was 15, 16 years old. ... So it isn't something that he has to learn."

Riley said last season that Miami's plan for the long-awaited offseason of 2010 was "to build a dynasty." Step one in that process was convincing Wade to re-sign, something that wouldn't have happened unless either James or Bosh decided to join the Heat.

"We were ready for the worst-case scenario," Riley said, "and the best-case scenario happened for us."

That being said, his job isn't done.

Riley will shift his focus back to talent evaluating now, working on finding hidden gems out there, while continuing to figure out how to make the current Heat lineup better.

The summer has been about talking. Riley's longing for games.

"I'm actually bored stiff," Riley said. "I can't wait for it to start."

Manager: Iverson considers playing overseas

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Unwanted by the NBA, Allen Iverson is considering playing in China.

Gary Moore, Iverson's personal manager, said Iverson has not been contacted by any NBA team with training camps set to open in less than two weeks. Moore said there is "legitimate interest" between Iverson and a team in China to work out a deal. Moore did not know the team's name and was vague on details.

"We're very astonished, to say the least, that not one team has contacted us with any interest," Moore said. "I just don't understand it."

Iverson played three games for Memphis last season before he returned for a second stint with the Philadelphia 76ers. He averaged 13.9 points for the Sixers before he took a leave of absence in March because of family issues.

Ruiz lifts Phillies past Marlins, 11-4

MIAMI (AP)—Carlos Ruiz matched a career high with four RBIs, Joe Blanton allowed one run in six innings and the Philadelphia Phillies extended their September surge by beating the Florida Marlins 11-4 on Monday.

Ruiz, Jayson Werth, Chase Utley and Greg Dobbs all homered for the National League East leaders, who are 10-3 in September. The Phillies remained a game ahead of Atlanta, which beat Washington.

Philadelphia's Ryan Howard reached the 100-RBI mark for the fifth straight season, while Werth and Utley each scored twice. Blanton (7-6) struck out eight and walked two, dropping his ERA to 5.00, the lowest it's been since May 8.

Dan Uggla hit his 30th home run for Florida, making him the first second baseman in major league history to reach that plateau four times.

Philadelphia Phillies' Carlos Ruiz bats during the second inning of a baseball game for a single against the Florida Marlins, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010 in Miami.

AP

Braves 4, Nationals 0

At Atlanta, Derek Lowe set a career high with 12 strikeouts and combined with Billy Wagner on a six-hitter to lead Atlanta over Washington.

Lowe (13-12) was 0-3 with a 6.11 ERA in his first three starts against Washington this season before delivering an impressive win marked by two personal milestones.

He earned an ovation from the small crowd of 18,647 with his 1,500th career strikeout against Ian Desmond in the fourth. Lowe struck out Wilson Ramos in the eighth for his 12th of the game.

Reds 7, Diamondbacks 2

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce returned from a two-week layoff and homered in each of his first two at-bats as Cincinnati went deep five times against Arizona to secure its first winning season since 2000.

The Reds' nine-year streak of losing seasons was their longest in a half-century. With each win, the NL Central leaders close in on another breakthrough—their first playoff appearance since 1995. They moved seven games ahead of second-place St. Louis, which lost to the Cubs.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Jeff Samardzija pitched shutout ball in his first major league start this season and drove in a run to lead Chicago past St. Louis.

Samardzija (1-1) filled in admirably for Carlos Silva, scratched due to pain in his pitching elbow. In his first big league appearance since April 19, the former Notre Dame football star allowed six hits in 5 2-3 innings. He walked four and struck out one.

Astros 4, Brewers 2

At Houston, Brett Myers became the eighth pitcher in 90 years to throw six or more innings in 30 consecutive starts and Carlos Lee drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh as Houston beat Milwaukee.

Myers (12-7) pitched seven strong innings to extend a streak that is the longest since Curt Schilling went at least six innings in 35 straight games to start the 2002 season.

Mets 1, Pirates 0, 10 innings

At New York, pinch-hitter Nick Evans singled home the winning run in the 10th inning to give New York a rain-delayed victory over Pittsburgh.

Evans, with three hits in 11 at-bats this season, drove in Ruben Tejada, a .188 hitter who had a one-out double. Jose Tabata fielded Evans' hit off Park Chan-ho (1-2) in shallow left, but his throw was off line and Tejada scored easily.

Padres 6, Rockies 4

At Denver, Miguel Tejada equaled a season high with four RBIs to help San Diego remain on top of the NL West by ending Colorado's 10-game winning streak.

The Padres have a half-game lead over San Francisco. Losers of three of their previous four, they entered the game percentage points ahead of the Giants and were in danger of falling out of at least a share of the division lead for the first time since June 16.

Rays 1, Yankees 0

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Reid Brignac homered on a full count pitch leading off the bottom of the 11th inning to send the Tampa Bay Rays into first place in the American League East over the New York Yankees.

Brignac connected off Sergio Mitre (0-3), the fourth Yankees reliever that followed CC Sabathia, who pitched eight scoreless innings in pursuit of his major league-leading 20th win.

Grant Balfour (2-1) pitched one inning to get the win for the Rays, who pulled ahead of the defending world champions for the division lead.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 3, 11 innings

At Baltimore, Luke Scott singled in the winning run in the 11th inning as Baltimore ended a 12-game losing streak against Toronto.

Brian Roberts homered for the Orioles, now 1-12 against Toronto this season. Those 12 losses came before manager Buck Showalter arrived in Baltimore and rejuvenated a 32-73 team that has gone 24-15 since his debut on Aug. 3.

Athletics 3, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Bobby Cramer, a former teacher who started this season in the Mexican League, won his big league debut by pitching Oakland over Kansas City.

Cramer held the Royals to one run and four hits in 5 1-3 innings. He struck out four and walked one.

Cramer (1-0), a left-hander who turns 31 next month, started his pro career in 2003 in the Tampa Bay system. He was a high school math teacher and worked in pipeline maintenance while out of baseball in 2005-06, and played in an independent league in 2008.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 1

At Seattle, Jon Lester held Seattle to just three hits over eight innings in Boston's win over the Mariners.

Lester (17-8) has won four straight decisions and six of his last seven starts. He gave up three singles, two to Chone Figgins, walked three and struck 12. It's the seventh time this season he has struck out 10 or more.

Lester now is tied for second in the American League in wins. He is third in strikeouts (208), eighth in ERA (3.17), and tied for third in opponents batting average (.220).

No Tiger at Tour Championship is appropriate

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Leave it to the PGA Tour to find the upside of Tiger Woods missing out on the Tour Championship.

In a press release Monday promoting the 30-man field at East Lake, it notes that Woods' failure to qualify for the last playoff event guarantees there will be a new FedEx Cup champion this year.

Phil Mickelson said it "absolutely" will be strange not having the world's No. 1 player at the Tour Championship, although it's nothing new. Woods has only played East Lake twice in the past five years, skipping in 2006 after a long year coping with his father's death and in 2008 when he was recovering from knee surgery.

The difference, of course, is that Woods couldn't play the Tour Championship even if he wanted. He needed to shoot 65 in the final round of the BMW Championship, and it took him until the 17th hole just to get under par for the final round, and the tournament.

In an explanation he offered three times Sunday—to NBC Sports, XM Radio and the rest of the media—he blamed only himself.

"I didn't play well in the beginning of the year and I didn't play well in the middle of the year," he said.

He said he is starting to play well now, but that only shows how far he had fallen. Woods tied 12th at The Barclays, tied for 11th at the Deutsche Bank Championship and tied for 15th at the BMW Championship.

Three straight weeks out of the top 10 used to be called a slump.

Now it's called progress?

But there are other examples of Woods' weird year on the golf course.

He has gone seven consecutive tournaments out of the top 10, the longest stretch of his career. His previous worst was five straight tournaments out of the top 10. That was in 2001, between victories at the Memorial and Firestone.

And to get an idea of how he is playing, just look at when he is playing.

Woods is typically among the last to arrive because he is in or close to the lead so often. This year, he has teed off before noon in the final round at eight of his 12 tournaments.

The exceptions were the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open. The other tournament was Quail Hollow, where he didn't make it to the final round after missing the cut with the highest 36-hole score of his career.

As he walked down the eighth hole at Firestone on Sunday, Woods could look to his left at the back nine that was empty. That's never happened before. Then again, he's never been the second group off on Sunday.

Another first came at Ridgewood in the opening playoff event. Because of his FedEx Cup ranking—No. 112—Woods teed off so early that he was the first player to hit a shot in the tournament.

"That's how far I've fallen," he said, a rare glimpse of his self-deprecating humor.

On Saturday morning at Firestone, caddie Steve Williams saw a reporter and asked the whereabouts of another golf writer.

"I never thought this would happen," came the reply, "but he actually has a later tee time today than Tiger."

Should anyone find this the least bit shocking?

This is no time to take pity on Woods. He's the one who created this mess he's in. But only Woods knows what's going on inside his head and with his swing.

He split with swing coach, Hank Haney, in May and spent the next three months working out the settlement in a split with his wife.

Woods appears ready to take on a new coach with a new concept. Previous swing changes have taken Woods some 18 months before he figures it all out. Even then, he still managed to win at least one tournament, threaten in a couple of others and have time to eat lunch before his final round, not after it.

Perhaps the only shock is that he's still No. 1 in the world ranking. That's as much a reflection of Mickelson, who has had 11 tournaments with a mathematical chance to take over. The next comes at the Tour Championship, and the scenario for Lefty to be No. 1 will not depend on Woods because he won't be there.

They played together in the final round at Cog Hill for the first time all year, tied at even par. Mickelson was five shots ahead after seven holes, as Woods walked with his head down, not looking the least bit like he was having any fun.

Woods rarely does unless he's winning.

"You can tell that his game is inches from turning because his speed is back and his putter looks great," Mickelson said. "I mean, his game is not far off at all. It looks very close to being right there."

That's another measure of how far Woods has fallen—his biggest rival can only offer an encouraging word.

They might still meet again, though certainly not as a partnership at the Ryder Cup. That didn't work even in good times. Mickelson is the defending champion in Shanghai at the HSBC Champions, where a year ago he took a two-shot lead into the final round and buried Woods.

For Woods, the HSBC Champions is more meaningful than ever. It will be his last chance this year for a PGA Tour victory (this World Golf Championship only counts as one if a PGA Tour member wins it). Woods has gone 14 consecutive seasons with at least one tour victory, three years away from the record held by Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer.

And it's not a streak that Woods can start over.

NADAL

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tmaking by both men and interrupted by a thunderstorm a day after it was postponed by rain.

It's Nadal's third consecutive major championship and ninth overall.

He is the seventh man in tennis history with at least one title from each Grand Slam tournament.

"I think for the first time in my career I played a very, very good match in this tournament," Nadal said. "That's my feeling. I played my best match in the U.S. Open out there at the most important moment."

Rain pushed the men's final from Sunday to Monday for the third consecutive year, and play was interrupted for nearly two hours during the second set. When they resumed, Djokovic took that set, the only one Nadal lost in the tournament. But the No. 1-ranked Spaniard quickly went ahead in the third set and, really, that was that.

"He took it away," Djokovic said, "and he never gave me a chance to go back."

Once seen as Roger Federer's nemesis, the 24-year-old Nadal now has made his own greatness quite clear.

"He has the capabilities already now to become the best player ever," Djokovic said. "I think he's playing the best tennis that I've ever seen him play on hard courts. He has improved his serve drastically—the speed, the accuracy. And, of course, his baseline (game) is as good as ever."

Nadal stretched his Grand Slam winning streak to 21 matches by adding the U.S. Open to his titles at the French Open in June, then Wimbledon in July. No man had won those three tournaments in the same year since Rod Laver won a true Grand Slam in 1969. Now Nadal heads to the Australian Open in January with a chance to claim a Rafa Slam of four consecutive major championships—something that also hasn't been done since Laver.

No. 3 Djokovic, the 2008 Australian Open champion and 2007 U.S. Open runner-up, made Nadal earn it. The Serb played superbly for long stretches, showing off the terrific returning, retrieving and big forehand he used to knock off 16-time Grand Slam champion Federer in Saturday's semifinals.

Coming out of the rain delay with Djokovic serving at 4-all, 30-all in the second set, both players clearly benefited from a bit of rest. Fresh of body and clear of mind, and with conditions perfect for tennis—calm and cool, the temperature in the 70s—they were superb, engaging in 10-, 15-, 20-stroke points that drew standing ovations and camera flashes from the stands, no matter who hit the winner.

And there were winners aplenty at both ends—49 by Nadal, 45 by Djokovic—as well as point-extending defense, sneakers squeaking as they scurried around the court. The key, perhaps, was this: Nadal went through a stretch of 45 points without making an unforced error, and he made only two in the fourth set. It's not as though he was playing safe, either, cranking up his groundstrokes and aiming for the lines.

Djokovic claimed the second set by breaking Nadal in the final game, getting back a deep return off a 122 mph serve. Nadal was on his heels—a rare sight, indeed—and slapped a forehand into the net. That gave Djokovic three breaks in a span of 10 service games, against a player who was broken twice the first 92 times he served.

It would be the only set lost of 22 played by Nadal in New York this year, as he came oh-so-close to being the first man in a half-century to win this tournament without dropping a set.

Nadal was back to his relentless best in the third and fourth, hitting shots so well that Djokovic was moved to applaud on occasion. A drop volley here; a running backhand passing winner there; most delivered with a sneer.

Nadal broke for 2-1 leads in each of those last two sets, then arrived at match point by sprinting to reach a drop shot and whipping a forehand that landed right on the baseline.

Djokovic hit a forehand wide to end it, and Nadal fell backward onto the court with a shout. He rolled onto his stomach, his chest heaving—finally the champion in New York after losing in the semifinals the last two years.

Now he's the first left-hander to win the U.S. Open since John McEnroe in 1984, and the first Spaniard since Manuel Orantes in 1975.

Nadal first burst onto the scene as the so-called King of Clay, compiling a record 81-match winning streak on that surface and starting his French Open career 31-0. His five titles at Roland Garros have earned him accolades as the best clay-court player in history, but now he has become so much more.

He won on the grass at Wimbledon in 2007, edging Federer 9-7 in the fifth set as darkness descended, then again this year. He won on the hard courts at the Australian Open in 2009, again besting Federer in five sets.

All that was left was the U.S. Open. After complaining of fatigue in 2008, coming off his gold medal from the Beijing Olympics, then dealing with bad knees and a torn abdominal muscle in 2009, he set out to make this trip to Flushing Meadows different.

He curtailed his schedule a bit in the spring, to save some wear and tear. He took time off after Wimbledon, getting treatment on his knees and skipping the Davis Cup quarterfinals. And, constantly seeking ways to improve, he says he decided a couple of days before the start of the U.S. Open to tweak the way he holds his racket to serve.

That added zip to his serves, now regularly faster than 130 mph, which helps him earn some easy points—important given the way he hustles so much and hits so hard, those booming forehands looking like uppercuts.

Nadal only had one blip all tournament: That second set Monday evening. Perhaps bothered by some pro-Djokovic supporters yelling between serves—earning an admonishment from the chair umpire—Nadal fell behind 3-1 by making four mistakes, including a double-fault, to get broken at love.

When Nadal pushed a backhand long to close a 19-shot point, Djokovic screamed, "Come on!" It was part of a run of 11 consecutive points for Djokovic, who went ahead 4-1.

As quickly as Nadal lost his way, however, he gathered himself, his strokes gaining steam, his footwork as good as ever. A violent backhand on a 23-stroke exchange allowed Nadal to break back, and he held to 4-all.

While Djokovic would take that set, Nadal eventually would prove too tough, too swift and too good—even at the U.S. Open.

"Nadal ... is just proving each day, each year, that he's getting better. That's what's so frustrating, a little bit. He's getting better each time you play him," Djokovic said. "He's so mentally strong and dedicated to this sport. He has all the capabilities, everything he needs, in order to be the biggest ever."

ROLLERS

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after the first quarter.

Then in the second, the G-Stars stretched it to an eight-point lead, 27-19, as they shared the ball effectively on the offensive end their defense held it down for the reminder of the first half.

After the half, the G-Stars' offense kept pressing forward and controlled possession of the ball for the majority of the third period.

Devero added eight more points and received mixed support from his teammates, while Rollers hulking center Savali Talalemotu managed nine points, but failed to get much help from his teammates.

When the fourth quarter started, the G-Stars led by 11, 45-34, and things were looking glum for the Rollers, but somehow the G-Stars ended up stuck on 45 and could not get a basket to drop until they lost the lead.

Rollers guard Jon Cenir stepped up in the clutch for his team and delivered nine huge points, while Talalemotu fought like a warrior down low for rebounds.

After Cenir ignited the Rollers' rally, Talalemotu added six markers to secure the late push. Then the Rollers' John Paulodarag hit a clutch three pointer in the final moments to finally put the G-Stars at bay.

Devero toyed around in the beginning of the period instead of driving to the hoop as his teammates stood around and ended up stunned with the result.

Talalemotu top-scored with 23 points, while Cenir added 14 in the win. Devero scored 22 points in a losing effort.

Rollers I 56 – Talalemotu 23, Cenir 14, Deleon-Guerrero 4, Paulodarag 4, Pangelinan 3, Cepeda 2, Hambros 2, Igitol 2, Mariano 2.

G-Stars 53 – Devero 22, Kenty 8, Rabauliman 8, Manalili 4, Palacios 4, Leung 3, Byun 2, Concepcion 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-16, 19-27, 45-34, 56-53

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 28

player Jake Lee and they won the championship against Daulaca and Papua New Guinea's Robin Morove.

"It feels great to be recognized again. Every time I get an award I am inspired to do my best in every tournament I joined in. I hope to continue playing well in future tournaments," said Miller, who won his third student athlete of the month plum.

The Saipan Southern High School freshman took the same award in June and was also the winner of the monthly plum in February. He notched the June medal after topping the 2010 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament, helping the CNMI dominate the event against Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesian.

Rastguiy was also the Female Student Athlete of the Month for June and the July recognition allowed her to win back-to-back awards.

"I love winning. It keeps me motivated," the 11-year-old Rastguiy said.

Rastguiy also represented the CNMI in the POJC and finished third in her debut in the annual tournament.

She won her first three games to advance to the semifinals where she was paired against Guam's Nadine Del Carmen. The diminutive Rastguiy stunned the much taller Del Carmen in the opening set of their semis match, 6-3, before the Guam bet recovered, sweeping the last two sets, 6-2, 6-2.

In the battle for third place, Rastguiy redeemed herself, defeating Vinda Teally, 6-1, 6-3.

Rastguiy continued her winning ways in the doubles event when she and Palau's Ayana Rengiil topped Fiji's Hasmita Rajan and Kiribati's Aresi Mwea in the finals, 6-1, 6-2.

Rastguiy and Miller received the monthly awards from TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola in a brief ceremony yesterday at the TSL Plaza. Besides the medals, Rastguiy and Miller were each given a $25 gift certificate from Shirley's Coffee Shop and $50 gift certificate from Modern Stationary.

IT&E

From Page 28

semifinal game between IT&E and Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 last Friday.

"The board has decided that no further sanctions are warranted or will be imposed," BANMI secretary general Michael White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Avoiding sanctions were IT&E's Junar Guiab and Elmer Esdrelon and Hi-5's Dave Sablan and Kae Bernardo.

Guiab and Sablan were ejected from the game after the latter came off the bench and joined the fracas on the floor, while the former was also seen running from the backcourt to help push off Hi-5 players.

The fight happened in the last 3:12 of the fourth quarter when Esdrelon gave up an unsportsmanlike foul on the driving Bernardo. Esdrelon hacked Bernardo, preventing the Hi-5 forward from making an easy layup. In that juncture, Hi-5 was trying to protect its one-point lead against the rallying IT&E, 61-60.

After the foul, both players slammed hard on the cushion under the goal and Bernardo appeared upset with the contact and pushed Esdrelon back. Esdrelon retaliated and soon players from both camps were already on the floor either pushing off their foes or pacifying their teammates.

IT&E team captain Edsel Mendoza was seen embracing two Hi-5 players, moving them out of heated action, while Hi-5 coach Eric Atalig also tried to cool down his players. Referees and table officials also stepped in on time, preventing the fight to escalate.

"The referees' handling of the situation was appropriate. The championship game will go on as scheduled Wednesday night," White added.

Tonight's game will start at 7pm with IT&E needing to beat the Nationals to force a deciding Game 2.

The Nationals enjoy a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, as they are undefeated in the playoffs. The Nationals swept the regular season, posting an 8-0 record, and won their first two matches in the playoffs.

IT&E logged two come-from-behind wins to arrange a title duel against the Nationals. In the loser's bracket quarterfinals, IT&E trailed in the first three quarters against Becks Sixsevenoh before stealing the win in the last 45 seconds of the fourth quarter, 66-62. In the last semis game against Hi-5, IT&E came back from a 13-point deficit to win in double overtime, 93-86.

IT&E held a 7-1 record in the regular season, absorbing its lone loss against the Nationals. IT&E bowed to the Nationals in overtime, 84-87, after collapsing in the fourth canto.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	87	56	.608	–
New York	87	57	.604	1/2
Boston	80	64	.556	7 1/2
Toronto	73	71	.507	14 1/2
Baltimore	56	88	.389	31 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	85	58	.594	–
Chicago	79	64	.552	6
Detroit	72	72	.500	13 1/2
Cleveland	58	85	.406	27
Kansas City	58	85	.406	27

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	80	63	.559	–
Oakland	72	71	.503	8
Los Angeles	70	73	.490	10
Seattle	55	89	.382	25 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	84	61	.579	–
Atlanta	83	62	.572	1
Florida	73	70	.510	10
New York	71	73	.493	12 1/2
Washington	60	84	.417	23 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	82	62	.569	–
St. Louis	74	68	.521	7
Houston	69	75	.479	13
Milwaukee	66	77	.462	15 1/2
Chicago	63	81	.438	19
Pittsburgh	48	95	.336	33 1/2

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	81	62	.566	–
San Francisco	81	63	.563	1/2
Colorado	79	65	.549	2 1/2
Los Angeles	71	73	.493	10 1/2
Arizona	57	87	.396	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cincinnati 7, Arizona 2
Philadelphia 11, Florida 4
N.Y. Mets 1, Pittsburgh 0, 10 innings
Atlanta 4, Washington 0
Houston 4, Milwaukee 2
Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis 1
San Diego 6, Colorado 4
Oakland 3, Kansas City 1
Baltimore 4, Toronto 3, 11 innings
Tampa Bay 1, N.Y. Yankees 0, 11 innings
Boston 5, Seattle 1

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	15	10
New England	1	0	0	1.000	38	24
Buffalo	0	1	0	.000	10	15
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	9	10

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	34	24
Jacksonville	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Tennessee	1	0	0	1.000	38	13
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	24	34

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	10	9
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	15	9
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	24	38
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	14	17

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	1	0	0	.000	21	14
Denver	0	1	0	.000	17	24
Oakland	0	1	0	.000	13	38
San Diego	0	1	0	.000	14	21

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	1	0	0	1.000	13	7
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	31	18
Dallas	0	1	0	.000	7	13
Philadelphia	0	1	0	.000	20	27

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	14	9
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	17	14
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	9	15
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	18	31

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	19	14
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
Detroit	0	1	0	.000	14	19
Minnesota	0	1	0	.000	9	14

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	17	13
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	31	6
San Francisco	0	1	0	.000	6	31
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	13	17

Yesterday's Games

Baltimore 10, N.Y. Jets 9
Kansas City 21, San Diego 14

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fojas, Igitol are Gamecon 2010 champions

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Steven Rasa Fojas and Mathew Igitol were crowned Halo 3 and Call of Duty Modern Warfare II champions, respectively, after the conclusion of Gamecon 2010 and Back to School Expo last Sept. 4 in Club V at the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Fojas, an 11-year-old video game phenom, won the nine-player Halo 3 individual competition.

Patrick Reyes came in second and Alvin Jack Manglona settled for third. Fojas was awarded a trophy, $200 cash, an iPod Touch, an iPod shuffle, a portable DVD player, and various gift certificates from Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan for being the most decorated slayer in the club.

Igitol, for his part, topped a field of 12 players to win the Call of Duty Modern Warfare II competition.

Jonathon Sanchez placed second and Christian Tudela came in third. Along with his trophy, Igitol also took home $200 cash, a Motorola Q9M phone, an iPod Shuffle, a sports bag from Boarderline/The Athlete's Foot, and gift certificates from Fiesta Resort and Spa.

A group made up of Justin Cabrera, Jose Pangelinan, James Philips, Austin Roberto, and Jude Sablan reigned supreme in the Call of Duty Modern Warfare II team category. Team Keychee's Philip Eusebio Burney Rios, Jose Dante Sabado Santiago, and Ruben Silvester received runner-up honors and Team Tri-Defiance members Hitomasu Kawahara, Manatsu Onori, Dylan Stewart, and Randall Stewart came in third.

▲ Matthew Igitol, second from left, topped a field of 12 and was declared the Call of Duty Modern Warfare II individual champion of Gamecon 2010 and Back to School Expo at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V last Sept. 4.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

◀ Steven Rasa Fojas, second from left, outlasted a rumble pit of nine to be crowned Gamecon 2010 and Back to School Expo's Halo 3 individual champion at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V last Sept. 4.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Awesome led by Patrick Reyes with teammates John Faller, Brendon Larenz, Judah Basuldua, and Kelvin Magsiposi won the Halo 3 team category after sweeping the runner-up Team Keychee squad.

Notably, kudos to the Assassins, whoever they are, who signed up on game day and snuck into the third spot. Their names could not be retrieved as they and a number of contestants signed up under one name and played under another during the competition.

In addition, K-Team's Steve Ha, Sin Yeop Kang, Ji Hyun Kim, Ji Seung Lee, and Gee Hyun Lim won first place in the Heroes of Newerth team category.

The Dota Crew made up of E.J. Bautista, Wilburn Cabrera, James Dela Cruz, Mark Dela Cruz, and V.J. San Pablo placed second, while Team Style members Kenny An, Jin Chung, Fred Lee, and Gabe and Mike Sheu rounded out the third spot. K-Team won a trophy, $400, five iPod Shuffles, and various gift certificates from Saipan Grand Hotel.

All runners-up won medals, gift certificates from Saipan Grand Hotel, Fiesta Resort and Spa, 670, gift items from The Athlete's Foot and Boarderline, coupons from Subway, IT&E text cards, and $50 certificates from D&Q.

Last Pacific Games slot at stake in Oct. 2 qualifier

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The remaining slot on the CNMI Golf Team that will participate in the 2011 Pacific Games will be at stake in the last qualifying tournament scheduled for Oct. 2 on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Check-in time for the last qualifier is at 11am, while tee-off is at 12pm.

Tournament coordinator Jess Wabol said three golfers are battling for the last spot on the squad—Tony Satur, Nick Sablan, and Tars Olopai. The player with the best average score among the three after the seventh (optional) qualifier will join Wabol, Jeff Taylor, Edward Manibusan, and Adam Hardwicke on the CNMI Team that will compete in the Pacific Games in New Caledonia next year.

Organizers of the Pacific Games qualifiers scheduled six regular trials and one extra for make-up. The seventh qualifier will also be used for players who want to drop their lowest score in the first six trials.

Players who are out of the running for the spots on the team are still encouraged to join the last qualifying tournament to help raise funds for the New Caledonia trip. Wabol said $10 of the entrance fee for the qualifier will go to team's Pacific Games fund.

Golfers representing the CNMI to 14th Pacific Games in the French territory are advised to prepare $1,800 each for their trip.

Wabol said the cost may increase depending on the route CNMI athletes will take to go to Noumea.

"We may have to prepare as much as $2,300 depending on where we are taking connecting flights. One option is the Japan, Australia, New Caledonia route, but that's a very long flight and it will take its toll on us. The second one is the Saipan, Korea, New Caledonia route. We will see what will NMASA tell us," Wabol said.

As for the competition, Wabol said they are looking at New Caledonia and Fiji as their toughest foe.

"New Caledonia players train in France, while Fiji have golfers based and competing in Australia," Wabol said.

"We really have to prepare against these players, mentally and physically," he added.

Once the qualifying tournaments are completed, Wabol said they will start their regular practice and this will include walking exercise.

To help the team or for more information, contact Wabol at 288-1129, Manibusan at 235-6520, Taylor at 483-2513, or Jordon Kosam at 483-4506.

Tigilau sets score to beat for September

Ray Tigilau has one arm wrapped around the September Ace of the Month trophy after he topped last Sunday's Refaluwasch Golf Association monthly qualifier at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tigilau shot a net score of 71 to beat nine other participants in the appetizer for the September ace. He started out on the wrong foot, shooting a 46 on the back nine, which included a birdie on hole No. 8.

He improved after the turn by cutting down five strokes and sinking another birdie on the last hole to finish the back nine with a 41.

Tigilau wound up with a gross of 87, which minus his 16 handicap, gave him the second lowest net score of the day.

Tars Olopai actually registered the best net score of the qualifier with his post-handicap score of 70, but he was disqualified from winning the monthly plum after he already took home the July ace.

Tigilau also registered the closest to the pin on hole No. 8, while Tom Tebuteb claimed the closest to the pin on hole No. 15.

The eight other participants of the September qualifier, with their scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Jess Wabol (73), Manny Mangarero (74), Tom Tebuteb (74), Joe Saures (76), Diwain Stephens (76), Tony Rogolifoi (78), and Jordan Kosam (79).

The winner of the September Ace will also join club championship qualifiers Olopai, Yi Piao (January), Joe Saures (February) Nick Leon Guerrero (March), Carl Hocog (April), Xian Lai Cue (May), Jesse Seman (June), and Jess Wabol (August).

Meanwhile, RGA is reminding monthly winners that they must compete in at least 10 qualifying tournaments to formally gain entry to the club championship.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Kosam at 483-4506, Stephens at 288-0005, or Saures 483-5506. (***Walter Sutherland)***

Banzai run raises $640 for IFC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last Saturday's 5th POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run raised $640 for the Independents Football Club after drawing more than 40 participants.

"We would like to thank all the runners and our sponsors for making this fundraising event possible. Through their support, we managed to raise $640," said race organizer Brad Ruszala, who handed proceeds of the race to IFC coach Glenn Smith after the brief awards ceremony last weekend.

Smith thanked organizers of the race, the sponsors, and participants for the generous donation, which he said will be used for IFC's program for the youth. IFC recruits U18 players from the southern villages of Saipan and each player gets a chance to play football for free, as the club provides shin guards, gloves, and other equipment for the game.

"Your donation will go a long away. This will help us continue our mission of encouraging our youth to play football," Smith said.

Joining Smith in the donation turnover ceremony were several IFC players, who also volunteered for the race, taking care of the registration area, guiding runners along the course, manning the water aid stations, and assisting Ruszala in handing out prizes.

This year's Banzai Half Marathon had Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel winning his third straight men's division title after crossing the finish line ahead of the pack.

Kabiriel timed in at hour, 39 minutes, and 20 seconds to beat the 16 other participants in the 13.1-mile race from and to Banzai Cliff.

The three-time champ made it to the finish line more than a minute ahead of runner-up Caesar Danao, who clocked in at 1:40:33. Third placer Keum Bae Ji was more than seven minutes behind Kabiriel, as the former posted 1:46:31.

In the women's division, there were only two participants with Rebecca Reed finishing first and Natasha Kuckuck coming in at second. Reed submitted 2:03.41, more than two minutes ahead of Kuckuck's 2:05:56.

The men's division fun run was a close race with top finisher Michael Mancao timing in at 27:56 against Ronald Villafria's 27:58. Third placer Douglas Dillay was not that far from the Top 2 finishers, as he recorded a 28:28.

Heather Kennedy posted the longest winning time after completing the 4.3-mile fun run in 33:36 or about five minutes ahead of runner-up Rebecca Iseman (38:35) and third place Becca Schroeder (38:36).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Independents Football Club's Glenn Smith, left, shakes hands with race organizer Brad Ruszala after receiving the $640 raised from the 5th POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run last Saturday.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Nadal defeats Djokovic for US Open title, career Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

US OPEN
A USTA EVENT

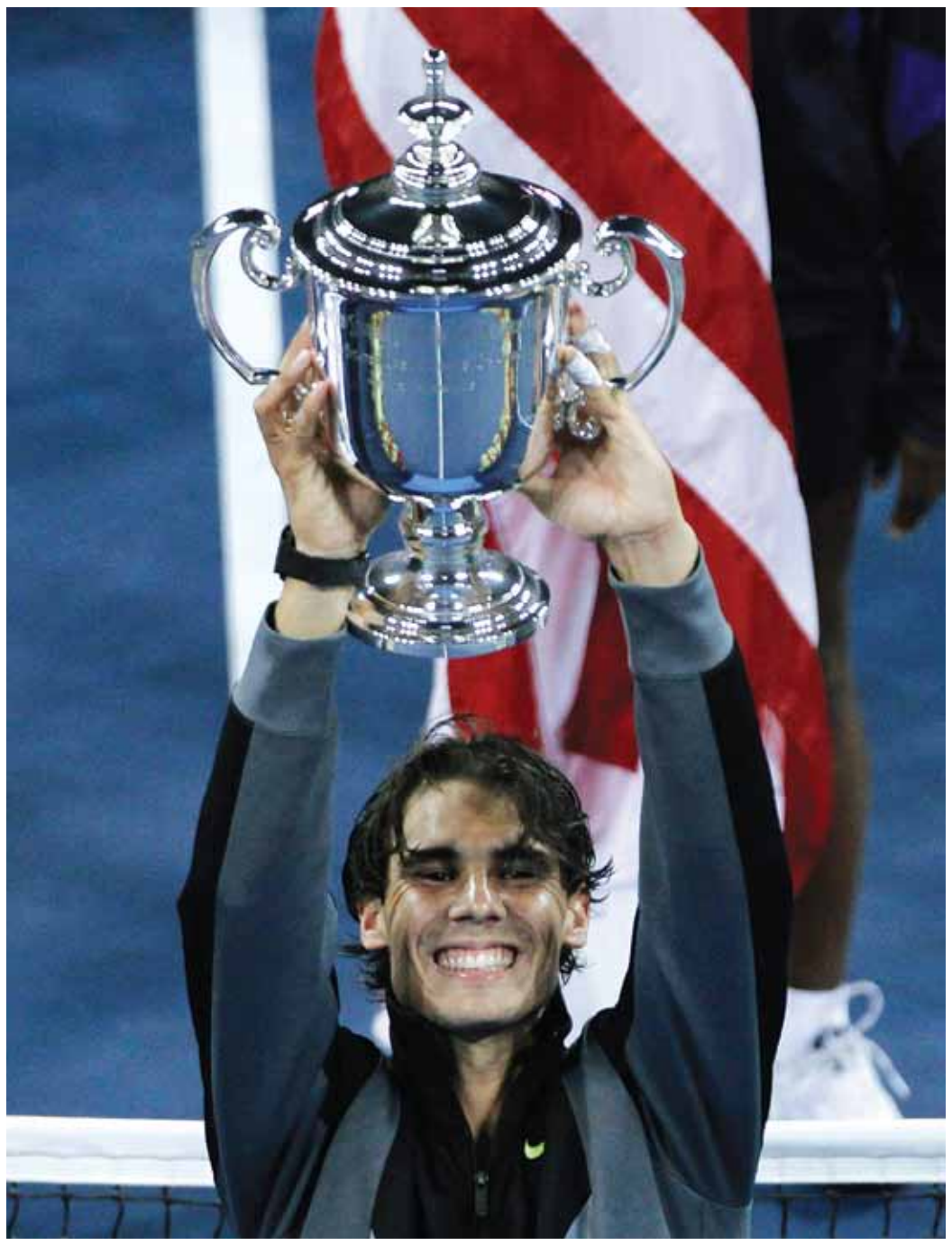
NEW YORK (AP)—The list was long. Everyone, even Rafael Nadal himself, tried to explain why he kept leaving the U.S. Open without a trophy, why it was the only Grand Slam tournament he hadn't conquered.

His grinding style exhausts him. The wind plays havoc with his spin-lathered strokes. The courts are too hard and too fast. The balls are too soft. And so on.

Two marvelous, nearly perfect weeks—and one victory in a thrilling final—make that all sound rather silly.

Nadal won his first U.S. Open title to complete a career Grand Slam, beating Novak Djokovic 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 Monday in a match filled with fantastic sho-

See NADAL on Page 26



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, holds the championship trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, to win the men's championship match at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Sept. 13, 2010. AP

IT&E, Hi-5 players escape suspension

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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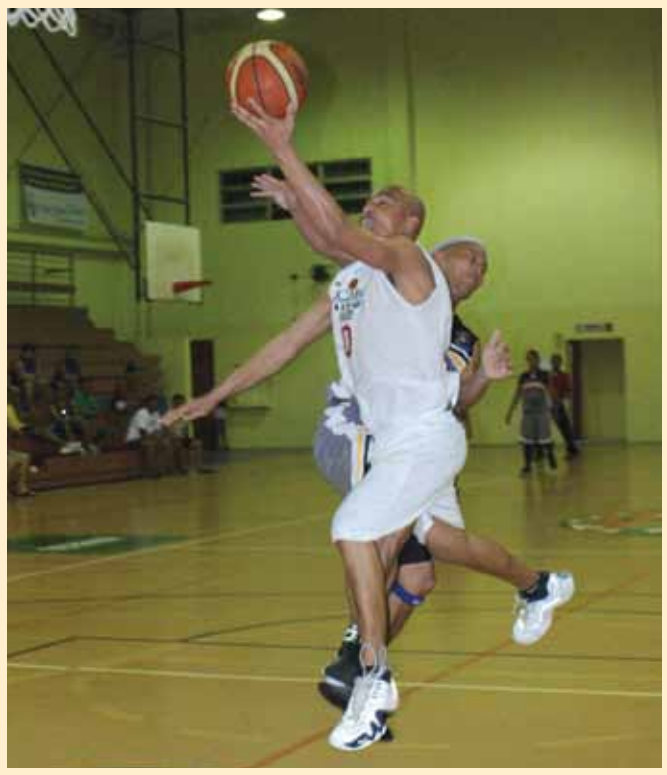
REPORTER

Hoegaarden IT&E will be playing with its keys players when it faces the Bud Light CNMI Nationals in the finals of the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The good news came after Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands decided not to sanction any players involved in the altercation during the

See IT&E on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bacardi Mojio Hi-5's Kae Bernardo is hacked by Hoegaarden IT&E's Elmer Esdrelon, triggering an altercation during the last three minutes of regulation of their heated semis game in the Budweiser caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rollers rally to beat G-Stars as youth caging opens

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Rollers I squad overcame an 11-point deficit to upset the G-Stars, 56-53, in the opener of the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League's U-19 division Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The G-Stars started out very well as lanky forward Christian Devero scored eight points to give his team a 16-8 advantage

See ROLLERS on Page 26

Rollers guard Jon Cenir goes up for an uncontested layup against G-Stars during their Rotary caging game last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.
WALTER SUTHERLAND

Back-to-back for Miller, Rastguiy

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH

Junior tennis players Christian Miller and Negahr Rastguiy added another medal to their collection after winning the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Student Athletes of the Month award for July.

Miller and Rastguiy earned the NMASA members' nods again for their impressive performance in the 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in July.

Miller was entered in the 14-and-under division of the POJC and finished third among 14 participants in his age group. He was undefeated in Pool B, sweeping all his three games before losing to New Caledonia's Alex Basco in the semifinals, 4-6, 5-7. In the consolation game, Miller prevailed over Geordie Daulaca of Fiji, 6-2, 7-6 (9).

In the doubles event, Miller teamed up with fellow CNMI

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 26

Negahr Rastguiy, left, and Christian Miller pose with their medals during the brief award ceremony for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Student Athletes of the Month (for July) at the TSL Plaza last Monday.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO